GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

7

INIO ASANO

PARENTAL ADVISORY
EXPLICIT CONTENT

GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

7

Story and Art by INIO ASANO

GOODNIGHT PUNPUN Part Thirteen

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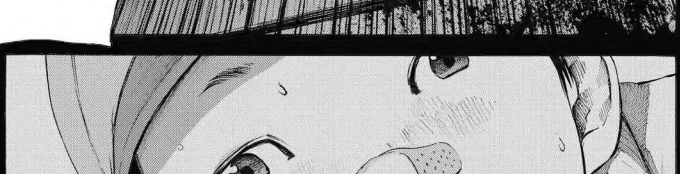

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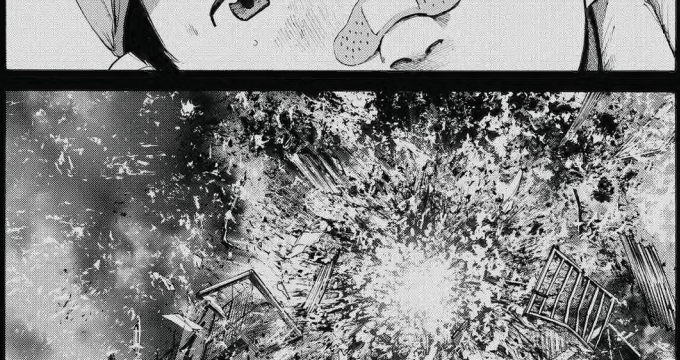
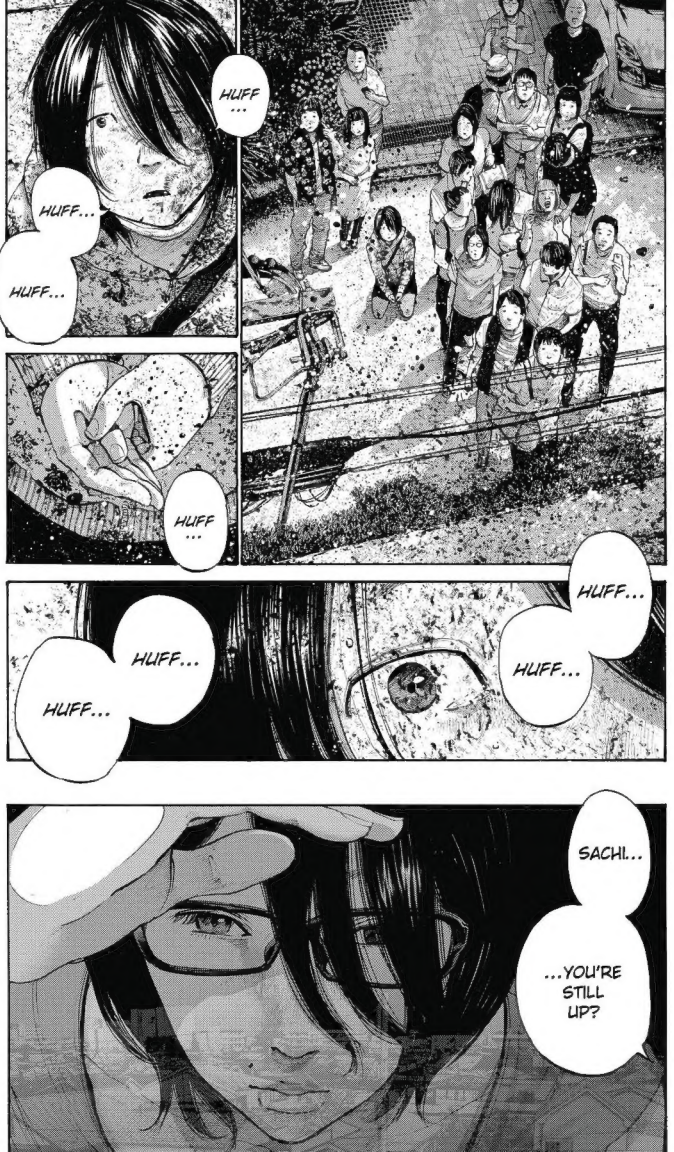


"IF YOU BELIEVE ME...

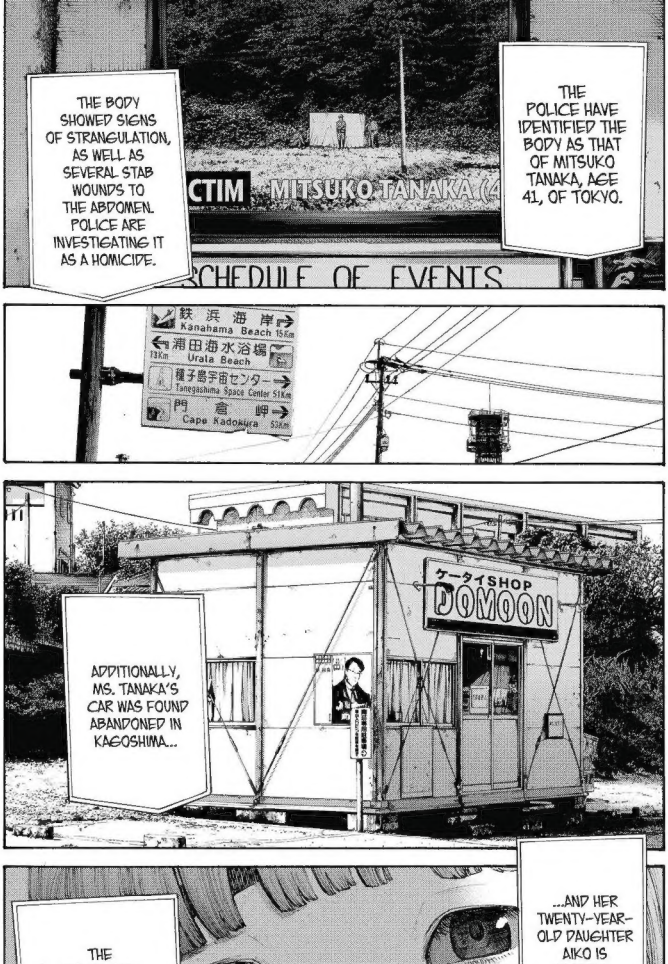
"...I'LL PROTECT YOU, NO MATTER WHAT."

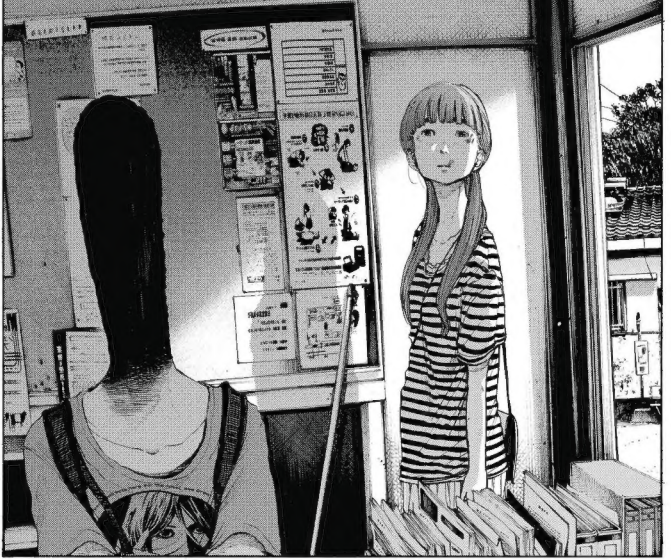
GET BACK, GET BACK!
WHERE'S THE FIRE DEPART-MENT?!
IT'S DANGER-OUS!
I TOLD YOU TO GET BACK!
AAGH!
NO WAY!
WHY ?!


HUFF...
HUFF...
HUFF...
HUFF...
HUFF...
HUFF...
HUFF...
HUFF...
SACHI...
...YOU'RE STILL UP?

I SEE SMOKE...
YEAH?
GO TO SLEEP. YOU'RE WORKING TOO HARD.

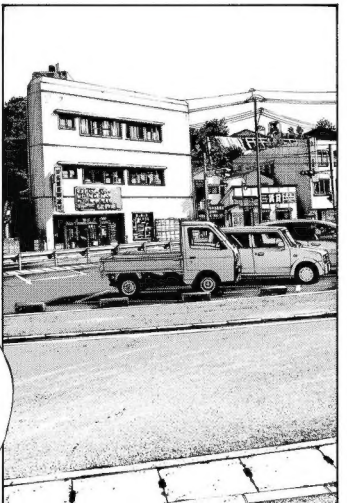
AND NOW CONTINUING ...
...WITH OUR MORNING HEADLINES...
WELCOME TO ROMANCE
TANEGASHIMA ISLAND
NISHINOMOTE CITY
AREA MAP
NISHINOOMOTE TOURIST BUREAU


THE BODY SHOWED SIGNS OF STRANGULATION, AS WELL AS SEVERAL STAB WOUNDS TO THE ABDOMEN. POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING IT AS A HOMICIDE.
THE POLICE HAVE IDENTIFIED THE BODY AS THAT OF MITSUKO TANAKA, AGE 41, OF TOKYO.
CTIM MITSUKO TANAKA (4
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
鉄浜海岸
Kanahama Beach 15Km
滑田海水浴場
13Km Urala Beach
種子島宇宙センター
Tanegashima Space Center 51Km
門倉岬
Cape Kadokura 53Km
ADDITIONALLY, MS. TANAKA'S CAR WAS FOUND ABANDONED IN KAGOSHIMA...
ケータイSHOP
DOMOON
THE POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING FOUL PLAY OR A POSSIBLE CONNECTION TO THE CASE.
...AND HER TWENTY-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER AIKO IS MISSING.



June 30, noon.

"Okay, let's calm down and think about this."



UM...
UM, EXCUSE ME.
YOU'RE AIKO ORIHARA, RIGHT?
I'VE BEEN A FAN SINCE THE YOUNG MAN GRAND PRIX...
I COULDN'T REALLY TALK TO YOU IN THE STORE.
I KNOW IT'S FANBOY-ISH, BUT...
...I WAS IN THE FRONT ROW FOR THE CHERRIES CLUB DEBUT EVENT. DO YOU REMEMBER?

I WON'T PRY INTO YOUR PRIVATE LIFE. THE GUY YOU'RE WITH IS OFF-THE-RECORD, OF COURSE ...
HA HA...
I PRIDE MYSELF IN BEING A PROFES-SIONAL FAN.
SO AN EXTENDED BREAK DOESN'T MEAN YOU'VE ACTUALLY QUIT, DOES IT?
ARE YOU STILL IN TOUCH WITH YUZUKICCHI FROM YOUR AGENCY?
SORRY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
YOU MUST HAVE MISTAKEN ME FOR SOMEONE ELSE.
YOU SIGNED YOUR REAL NAME, AIKO TANAKA...
...ON YOUR CONTRACT JUST NOW.
"You're not getting it.
WHAT?
WHAAT? NO WAY, NO WAY.

"She's telling you to go away. Get a clue, idiot."
I...
...FOUND US JOBS AND A PLACE TO STAY.
"But...
"...this place won't work anymore, Aiko."

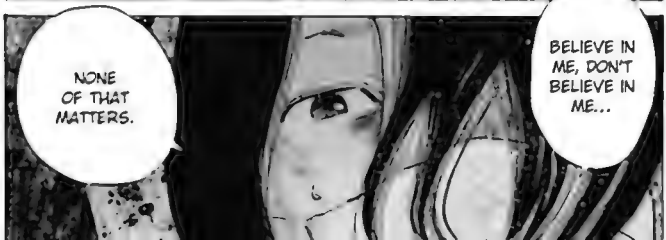
HUFF
...
HUFF
...
HUFF
...

"YOU TELL ME IT'S FOR MY OWN GOOD..

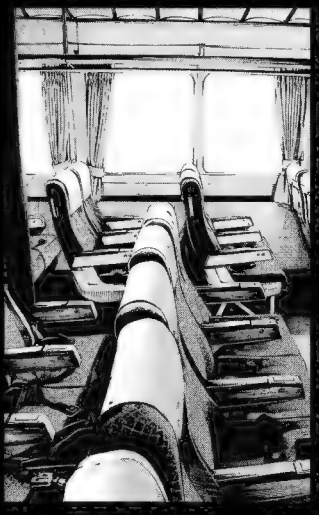
"...BUT YOU'RE ALWAYS JUST THINKING ABOUT YOURSELF."

WHERE'S SHIMIZU?
YOU NEED...
...TO GET OUT NOW!

"BUT YOU DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IN ME, RIGHT?"
"I WANT TO BELIEVE IN YOU, SEKI.
"THE POOP GOD SAID I CAN DO ANYTHING!"


NONE OF THAT MATTERS.
BELIEVE IN ME, DON'T BELIEVE IN ME...

SEE, WHAT DID I TELL YOU?
I CAN DO WHATEVER I WANT...
...THROUGH SHEER WILL-POWER.
SHIMIZU ...
WE'RE GOING HOME.



LOVERS...

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MY ACTIONS, MY WORDS
MIGHT JUST BE A NOTE CARVED INTO THE
NEVER-ENDING AKASHIC RECORDS.

HOPE...
YES, BUT I STILL HOPE FOR A PERFECTLY HARMONIZED WORLD,
NO MATTER HOW FOOLISH IT MAY SEEM.

EVEN IF THIS BODY ROTS AWAY WITHOUT ANYONE EVER KNOWING, I BELIEVE THAT THE VIBRATIONS OF THE MAGICAL WARRIORS RESONATE WITH YOU.

EVEN IF THIS ERA COMES AROUND AGAIN. BECAUSE I LIVED IN THIS MOMENT.

AND BECAUSE OF THAT,
THEY WERE THE BEST VIBRATIONS.
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS.

So happy.

GOOD VIBRATIONS!

I GOT TWO OVER HERE!
HURRY WITH THAT STRETCH-ER!
GET BACK, GET BACK!
HEY...
...HOW MANY MORE IN THERE?

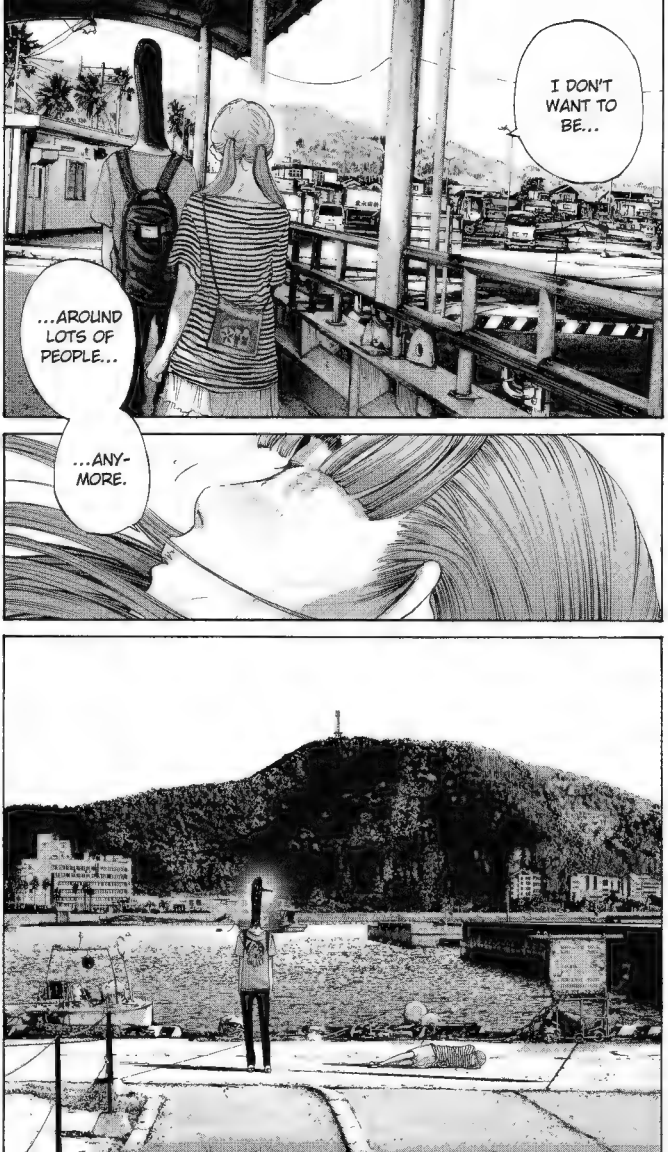
"Let's go to Osaka after we get to Kagoshima City. It'll be easier to blend in around more people."

"Aiko."

HUFF...

HUFF...

HUFF...

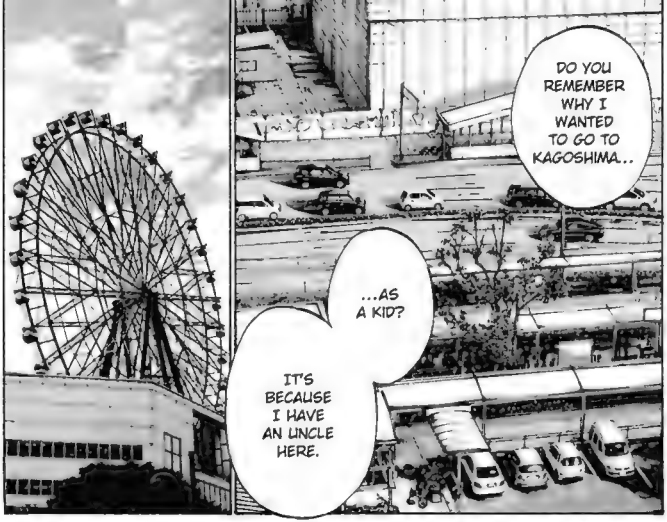

I DON'T WANT TO BE...
...AROUND LOTS OF PEOPLE...
...ANY-MORE.

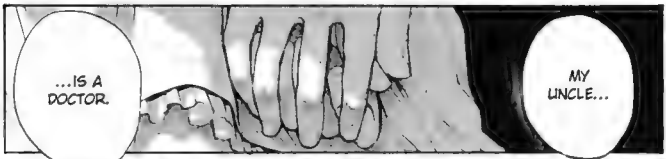
"Aiko, you've got a really high fever."
THE MEDICINE...
...ISN'T WORKING ANYMORE.
"We should go to a hospital."
IF WE DO THAT...
...I'LL BE ARRESTED.
HEE HEE...
I GET IT...
YOU *WANT* ME TO BE ARRESTED.

GODA KIMONO

HUH?
IT'S PRETTY FAR TO NISHINOSAWA.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO IN THE MOUNTAINS THIS TIME OF DAY?

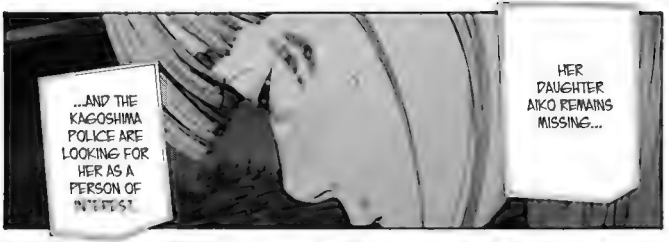
CAN YOU HURRY?
YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD.
I HAVE PLASTIC BAGS...
...SO LET ME KNOW IF YOU NEED TO BARF.


DO YOU REMEMBER WHY I WANTED TO GO TO KAGOSHIMA...
...AS A KID?
IT'S BECAUSE I HAVE AN UNCLE HERE.


MY UNCLE...
...IS A DOCTOR.

鹿児島中央駅

MITSUKO TANIGAWA WAS FOUND DEAD IN THE MOUNTAINS, AND HER CAR WAS DISCOVERED ABANDONED IN KAGOSHIMA PREFECTURE


...AND THE KAGOSHIMA POLICE ARE LOOKING FOR HER AS A PERSON OF INTEREST.
HER DAUGHTER AIKO REMAINS MISSING...

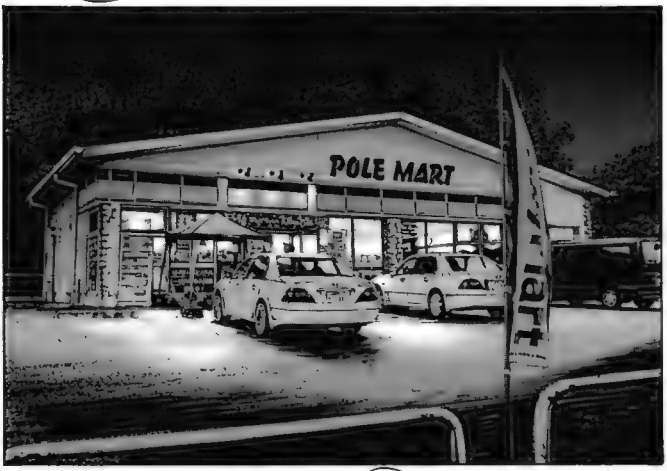
NEXT UP, THE KBF RADIO TRAFFIC REPORT!

WE'LL BE IN NISHINOSAWA SOON, BUT I NEED TO PEE.
I'M GOING TO MAKE A PIT STOP AT A CONVENIENCE STORE.
I'LL STOP THE METER WHILE I'M INSIDE.
FARE $133.10

"I think it's too dangerous to count on relatives at a time like this."

"Aiko, I don't think this was the right decision.

I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE.
THEN...
...DO YOU HAVE A BETTER IDEA, PUNPUN?

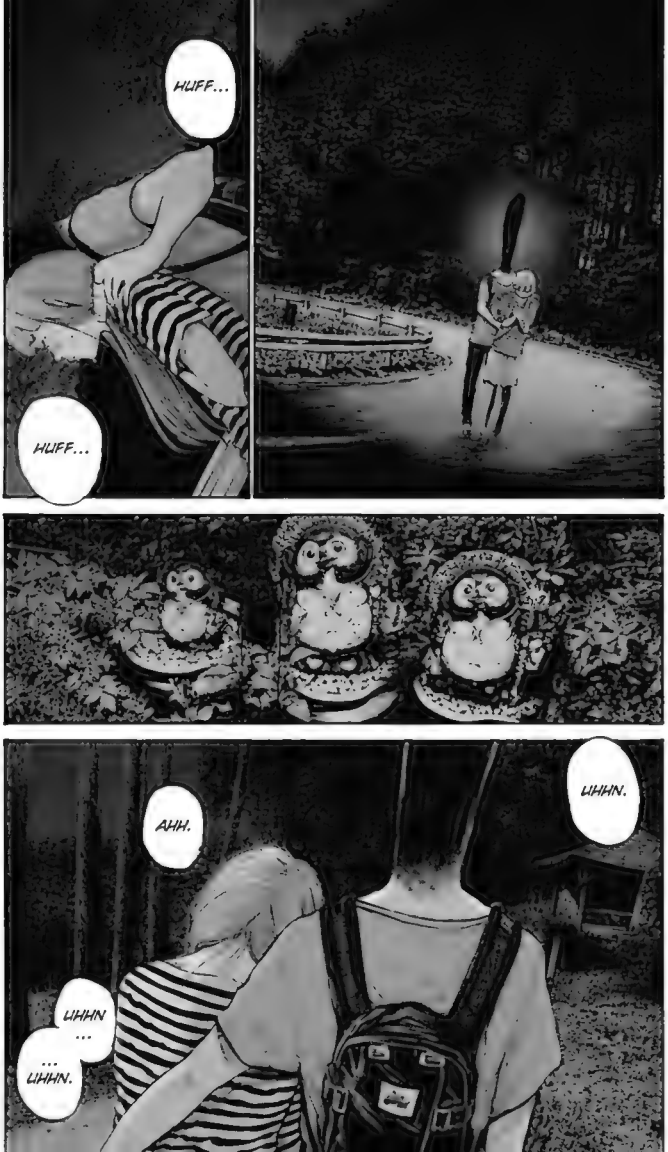

POLE MART

I'M SURE IF WE EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED...
HE'S A NICE MAN...
"It's precisely because he's a nice person that he's not our friend."
"Do you think your uncle will treat someone who shows up out of nowhere covered in stab wounds without asking any questions just because you're related?"

"Let's get out of the cab, fast."

"If he's calling the cops..."

"The driver might have recognized you."


HUFF...
HUFF...
UHHN.
AHH.
UHHN ...
... UHHN.

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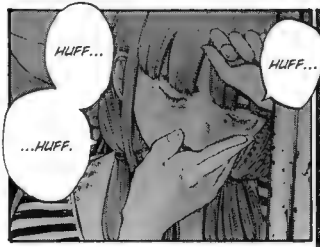
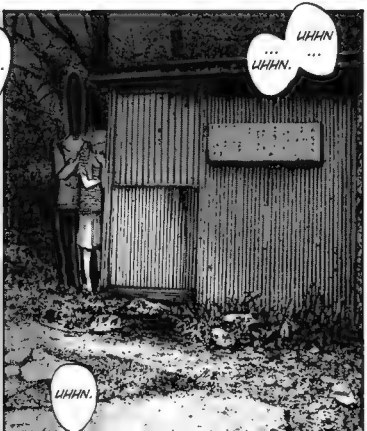
"Hide, Aiko."

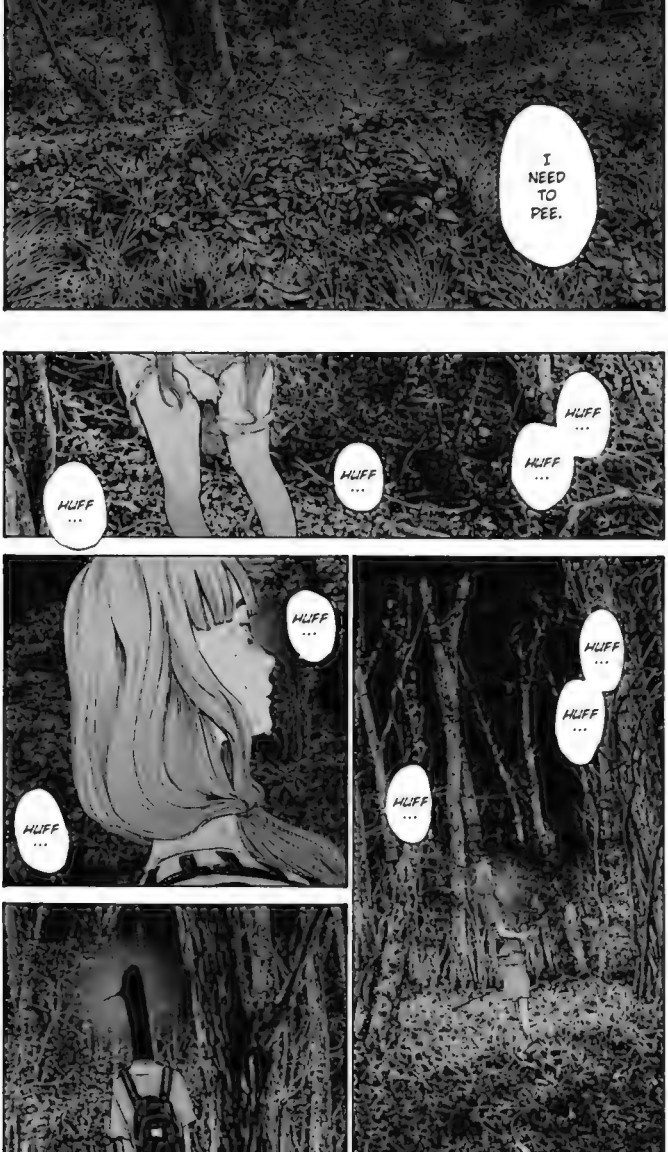


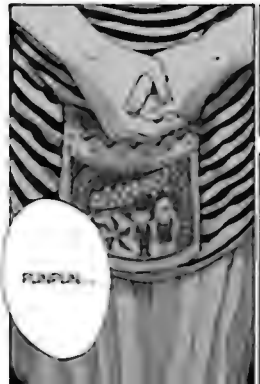
"Let's get away from the road."



GALAXY

WAT.


I NEED TO PEE.
HUFF...
HUFF...
HUFF...
HUFF...
HUFF...
HUFF...
HUFF...
HUFF...



"I saw on TV once that if you find a river and follow it downstream, you'll find a town."

"Aiko?"
WHAT...
...ARE YOU REALLY THINKING?
HUFF...
ULP.
ERM...
...UMM.
"Sorry, I think I made you overdo it. Let's rest a little."
HURP!
HUFF...
HUFF...

DON'T COME ANY CLOSER.
STAY AWAY FROM ME.

TH-THAT WAS A CLOSE CALL.
YOUR NAME ISN'T BEING REPORTED.
DID YOU REALIZE THAT I'M IN THE WAY NOW?

YOU WERE GOING TO KILL ME AND DUMP ME.
THAT'S WHY YOU MADE ME WALK SO DEEP INTO THE WOODS.

GALAXY

HUFF...
HUFF...
HUFF...
HUFF...

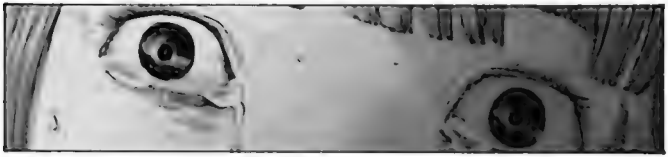
HUFF...
HUFF...

HUFF...
HUFF...
HUFF...

"If you don't believe in me...

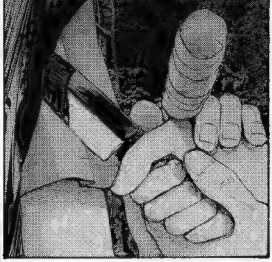
...what are you going to believe?"

"I promised you. I'll protect you no matter what.



"Believe in me."

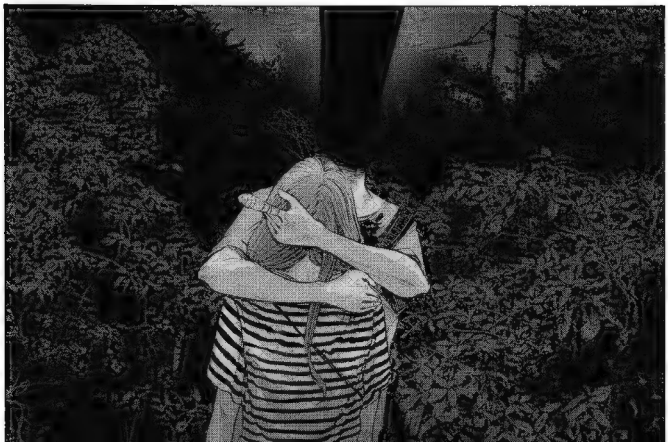
HUFF
...
HUFF
...
HUFF
...
HUFF
...



"Seriously, you really are a stupid cow.

"That's really good, Aiko."

"But that's good.



"...you've saved me."

"Maybe that's why...

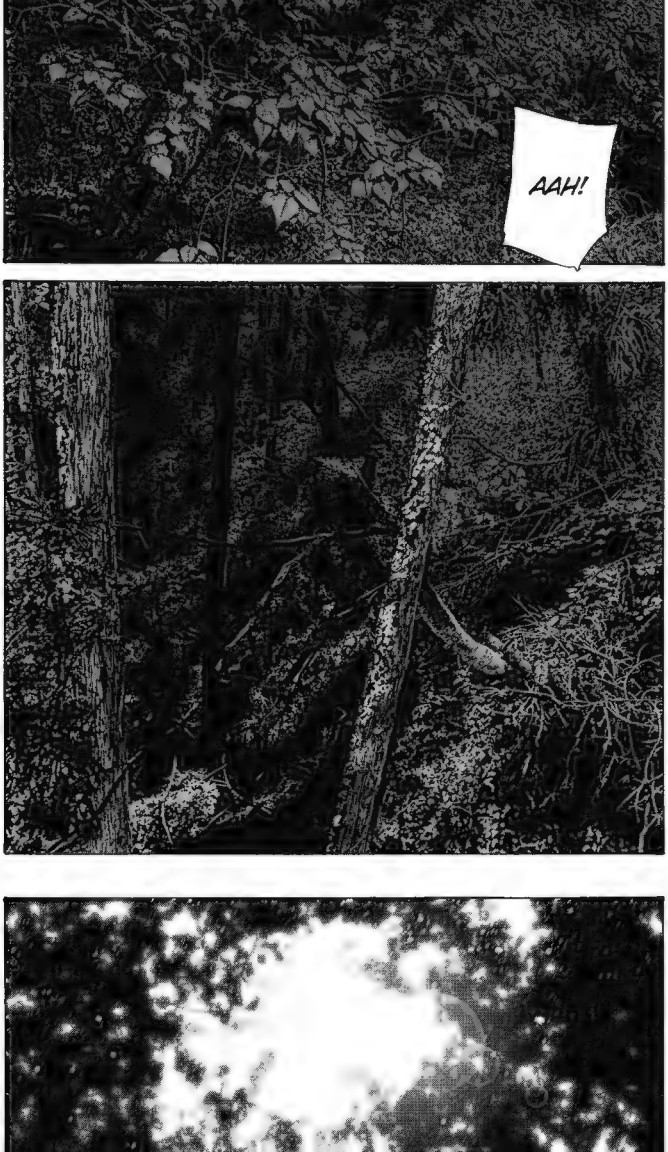
"...and I think we'll truly understand each other.

"Just a little more...

"We didn't understand each other...

"...because you were thinking too much."

NNGH
...
NNGH!
NNGH!
OH
...
OH!
AAH!


AAH!

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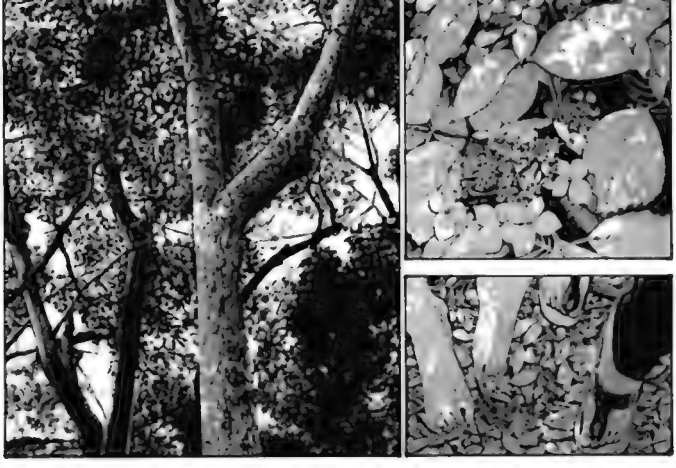
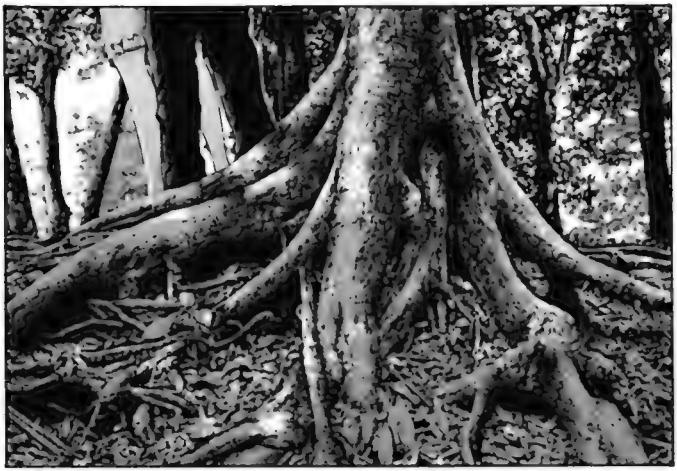
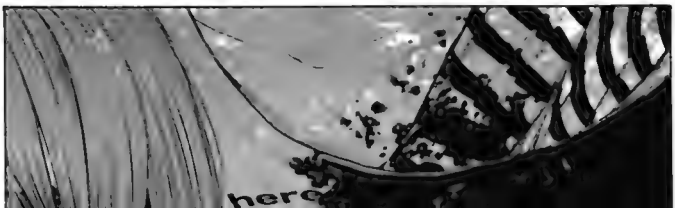


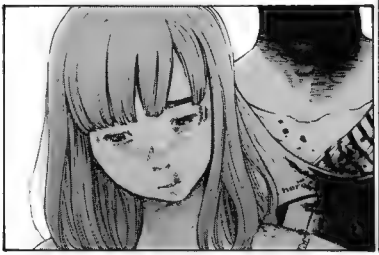


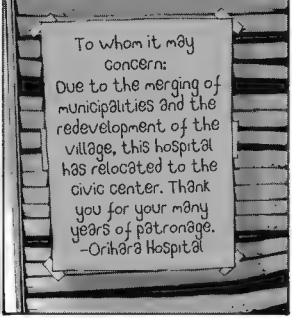


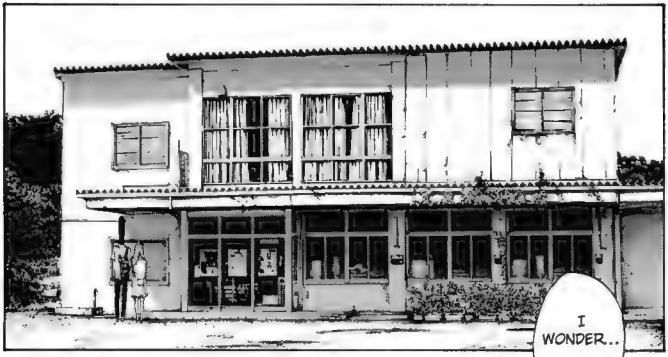
OH.

I RECOGNIZE THIS.

"Do you remember where the hospital is?"
KIND OF.
"If your uncle tries anything funny...
"...he deserves what he gets, okay?"




To whom it may concern:
Due to the merging of municipalities and the redevelopment of the village, this hospital has relocated to the civic center. Thank you for your many years of patronage.
-Orihara Hospital



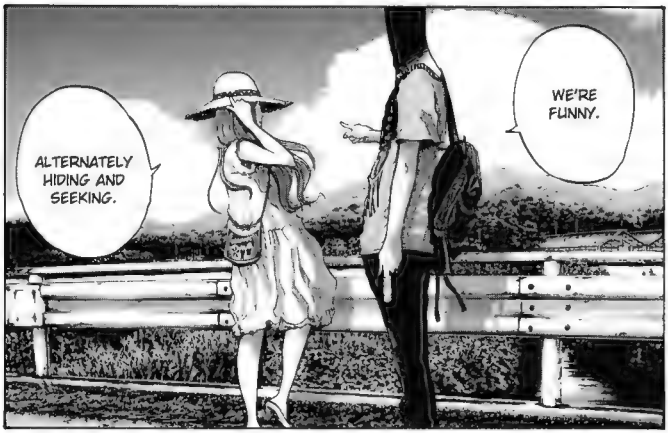
I WONDER...
...IF ANYONE STILL LIVES HERE?
KUMI
COMBINATION

THE CICADAS ARE OUT ALREADY.

DON'T DESTROY OUR VILLAGE!
THEY SHOULD HAVE SPENT MORE TIME RELAXING IN THE DIRT.

"Aiko."

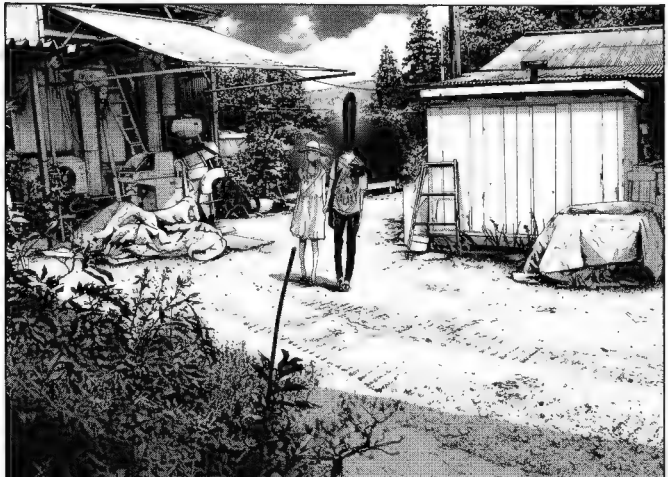
IT'S ALL TATTERED.
"Look over there."
"There might be someone over that way.

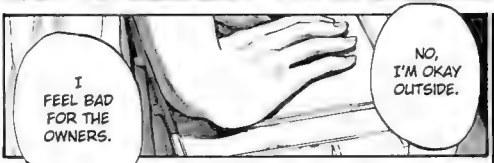

ALTERNATELY HIDING AND SEEKING.
WE'RE FUNNY.

HE'S SLOWLY...
...FALLING.

NO MATTER HOW HARD WE FIGHT IT...
...WE ALWAYS RETURN TO WHERE WE'RE MEANT TO BE.
YOU TOLD ME NOT TO THINK ANY-MORE.
BUT THE PART OF YOU THAT CAN SAY THAT KIND OF THING HAS GOTTEN TOO STRONG.
I'M MUCH MORE ORDINARY...
...THAN YOU WERE HOPING I WOULD BE.
GALAXY

I WONDER WHY...
...I'M GETTING SADDER AND SADDER.
AFTER WE REST...
...I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR A POLICE STATION, NOT A HOSPITAL.





"...so you don't need to worry about anything.

"...I'll take all the blame...

"When you turn yourself in...

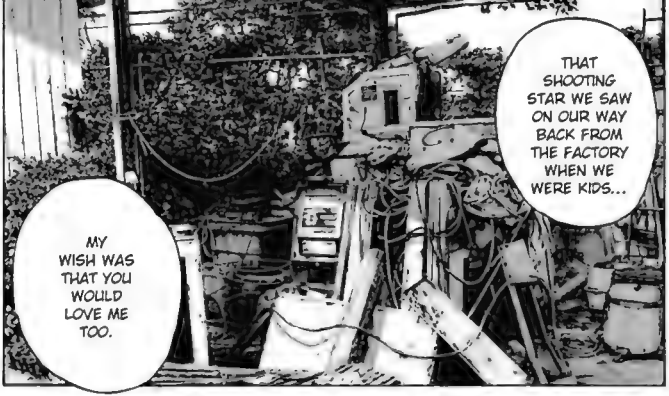
"It's pretty cool inside."

"Come on in.

"Even if I'm arrested, knowing you're waiting for me on the outside will allow me to be okay by myself for years or decades."

I'M GOING TO TELL THE TRUTH.
NO MORE LYING, OKAY?

"Did you lie that you killed her so that I wouldn't commit suicide?"
"...I've been wondering.
"Then ...
THAT WASN'T A LIE.
GALAKY

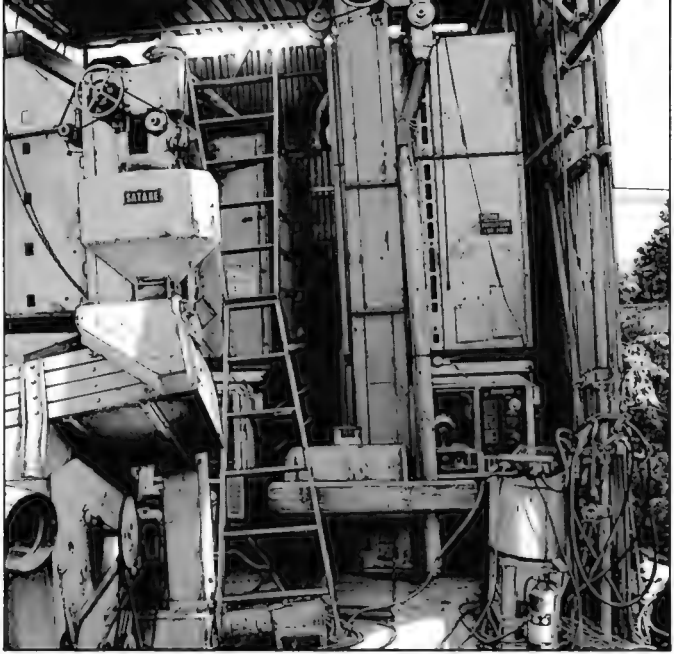

THAT SHOOTING STAR WE SAW ON OUR WAY BACK FROM THE FACTORY WHEN WE WERE KIDS...
MY WISH WAS THAT YOU WOULD LOVE ME TOO.

IT CAME TRUE.
THAT'S AMAZING.
CAN THERE BE A GREATER HAPPINESS?

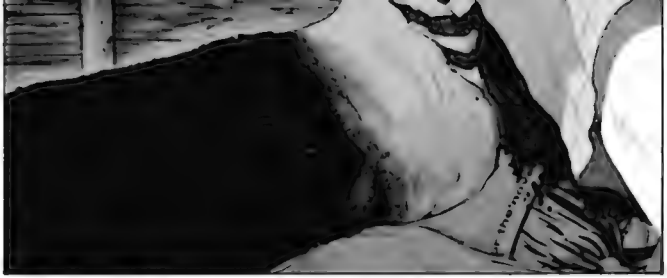
I WONDER IF WE'LL SEE IT AGAIN?
THAT HUGE MILKY WAY BY THE FACTORY?
"I'm sure we will."
THAT'S OKAY.
EVEN IF WE'RE SEPARATED...
...LET'S REMEMBER EACH OTHER ON TANABATA DAY, OKAY?
"Okay. I promise."

HEH
HEH...

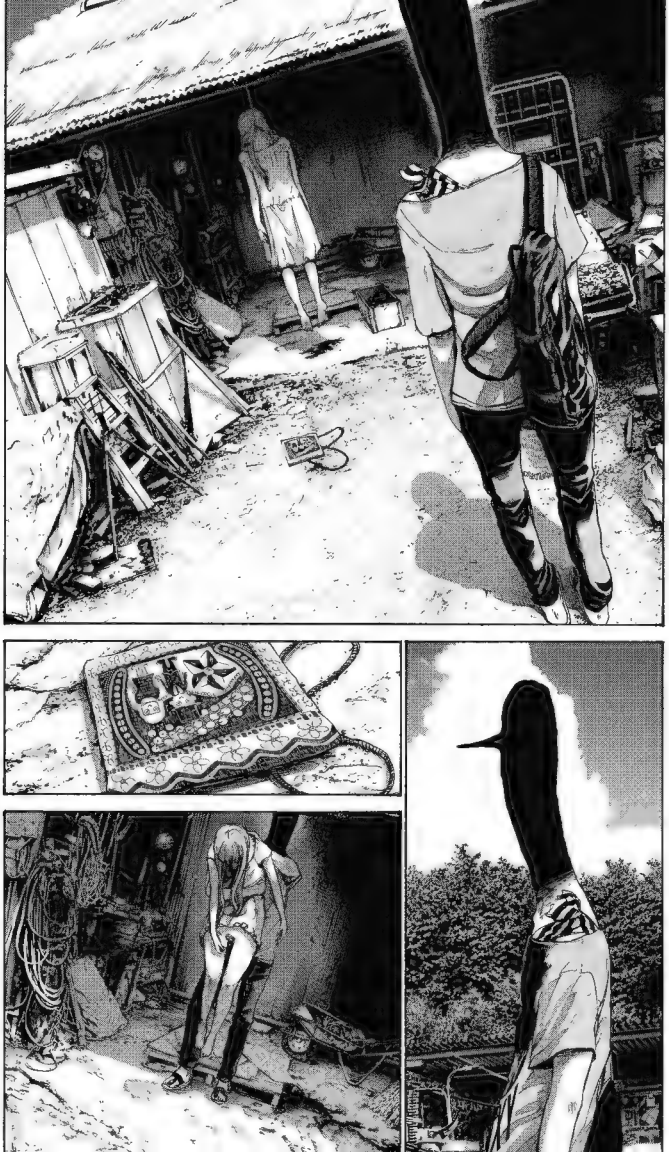
Chapter 139

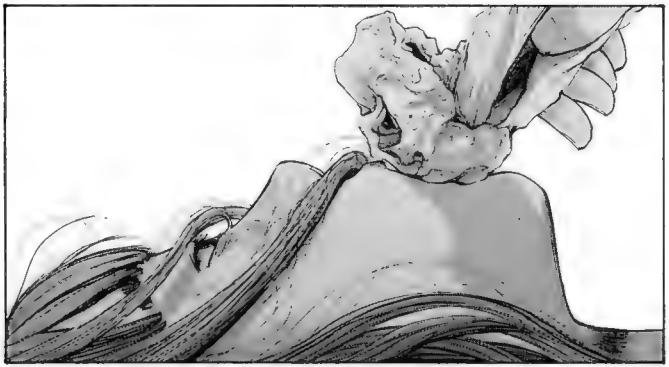


July 1, 2 p.m.

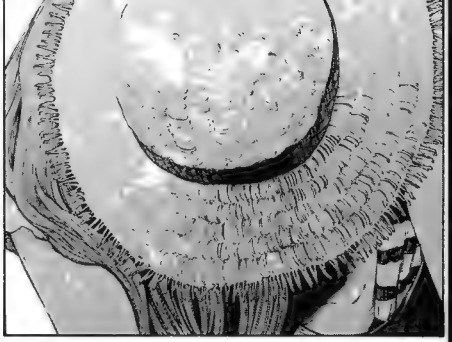


GALAN





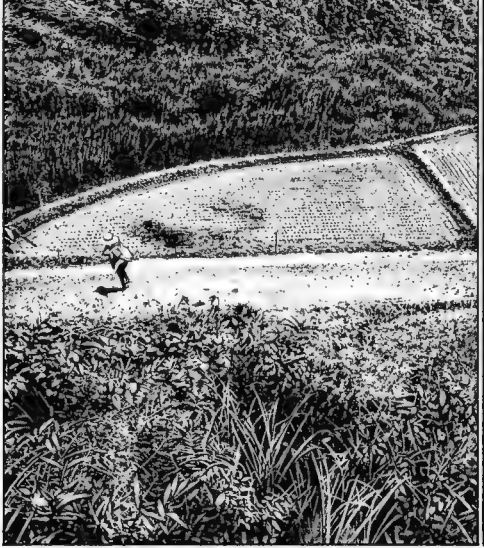
"Let's
go,
Aiko."



"Aiko, I was thinking about our life from here on out.

"We probably can't have a cushy life...

"...but we can probably manage one that's nice enough."



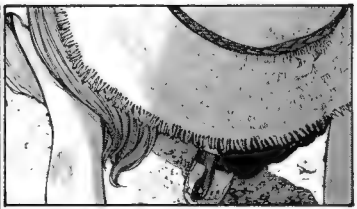
"When I wake up to go to my night shift, you'll just be getting home from work.

"You'll complain a little bit about your coworkers, like you always do. I'll get irritated, but I'll figure if it makes you feel better, I can put up with it.

"...until eventually you'll fall in love with someone a little bit taller and a little bit more cheerful than me and leave.

"I'll be exhausted and become even more useless...

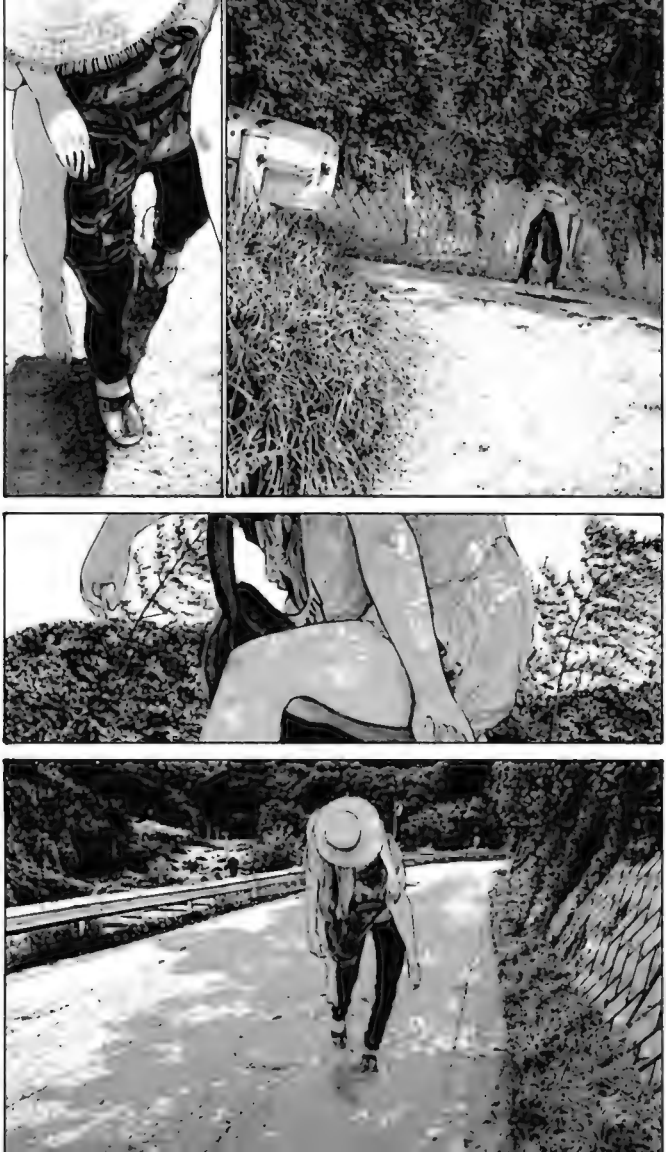
"We'll live like ships passing each other, and there'll be no way we'll be able to save any money, and if either one of us has an accident, we'll be in serious trouble.

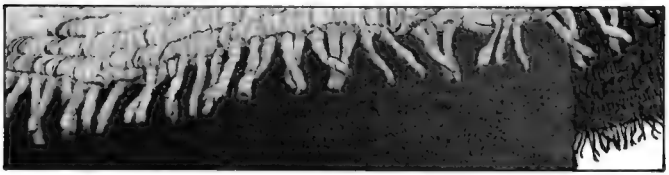


"Let's start over.

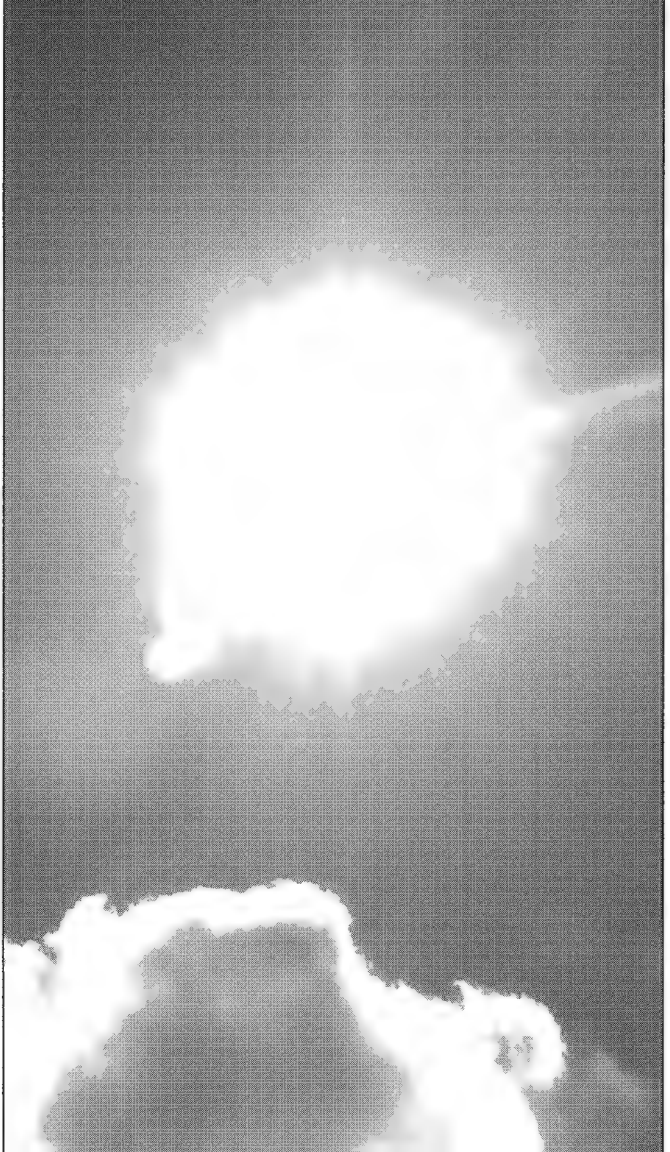
"Wait, that isn't fun at all.

"I wanted you to kill me."





"I must be an idiot."



Chapter 140

119,
EMERGENCY
MEDICAL
SERVICES.
DO
YOU NEED
THE FIRE
DEPARTMENT
OR AN
AMBULANCE?

HELLO?
CAN YOU
HEAR
ME?
DO
YOU NEED
THE FIRE
DEPARTMENT
OR AN
AMBULANCE?

"Sorry, wrong number."

Um...
"Hey."

"We came from far away...

"...so we're resting."

"...so we just started walking."

"We wanted to see how far we could go...

"Would you guys...

"...keep an eye out so no one disturbs her?

"She's exhausted and finally fell asleep.

"It would be mean to wake her, wouldn't it?"

"Thank you...

"You're a nice-looking couple."

you

you never forget

Hope that you never forget me

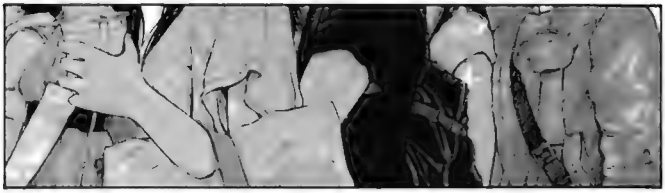
...I WON'T END THE WORLD.
BUT EVEN SO...

AND THANK YOU...
THE NEW WORLD IS...
...YOU LOVABLE MAGICAL WARRIORS.
...A TRIAL FOR YOU LOVERS.
I WANT TO TELL YOU WITH ABSOLUTE CONVIC-TION...
OUR GOOD VIBRATIONS WILL DEFINITELY ETCH HARMONY INTO THE UNIVERSE.
THE TIME...
...IS NOW.

THAT IS TO SAY..
WE WON.

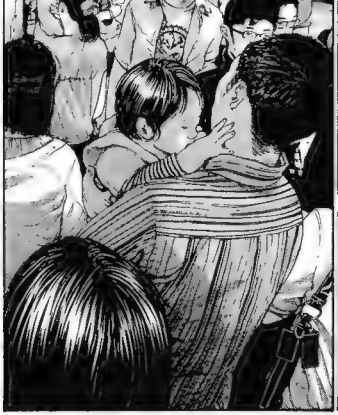
Chapter 141

上原弓月
LIVE



July 7 Tokyo Sunny

A young woman scurries, apologizing profusely on her cell phone for being late.



He thought it was very inconvenient to be tied to goals and pursuits.

But maybe that's just about binding the him-of-today to the him-of-tomorrow.

...very quiet.

It was quiet...

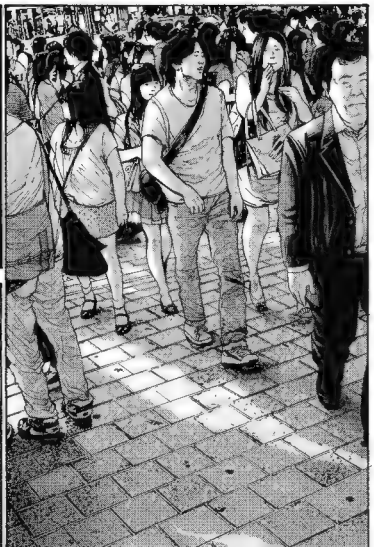
For a second...

...he thought someone had called out to him.

But of course no one had.

Actually, he realized he didn't even need a name anymore...

...so he should just forget it.



He felt nostalgic for the dingy 100-square-foot room and the boring, meaningless city he would never return to.

Yo.

...maybe when he opened them again, he'd be back several months ago when he was still a nobody.

If he closed his eyes for a moment and gave himself over to the waves of people getting sucked through the station barriers...

He...

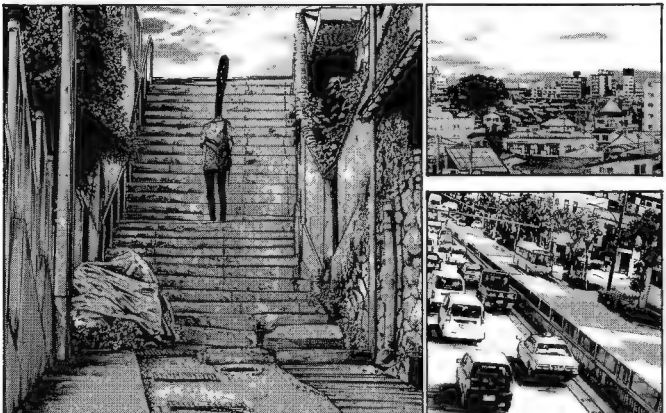
...was doing well today too.

SALONPAS
F21
FOREVER 21
I ♥ m.k

渋谷駅前
Shibuya Sta.
DAIWA

...those stars, that place.

Once again...



"I...

"...strong now."

"I'm...

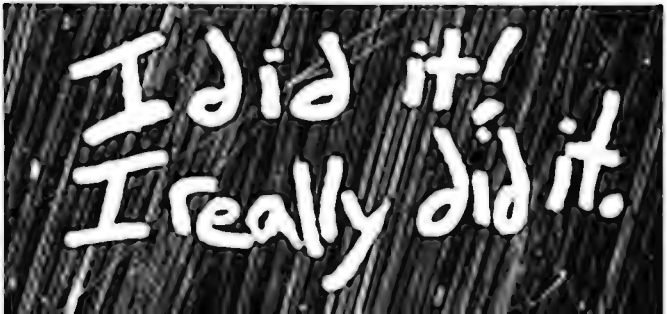
"I have nothing to lose and nothing left to protect. No worries, no conflict, no kindness.

"This is the ideal I was searching for.

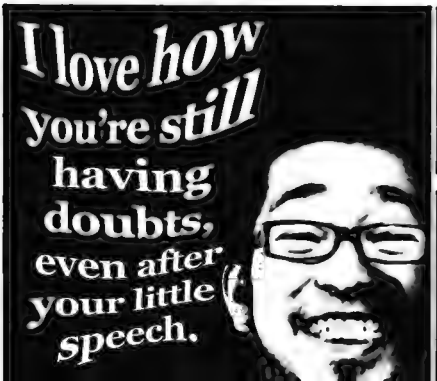
"I don't have a single regret...

"...and no matter how many times I rewind, I'd do the same thing again.

"I finally got it."


I did it! I really did it.

Was this really the only way?


I love how you're still having doubts, even after your little speech.

"Hello, God."

(laugh)

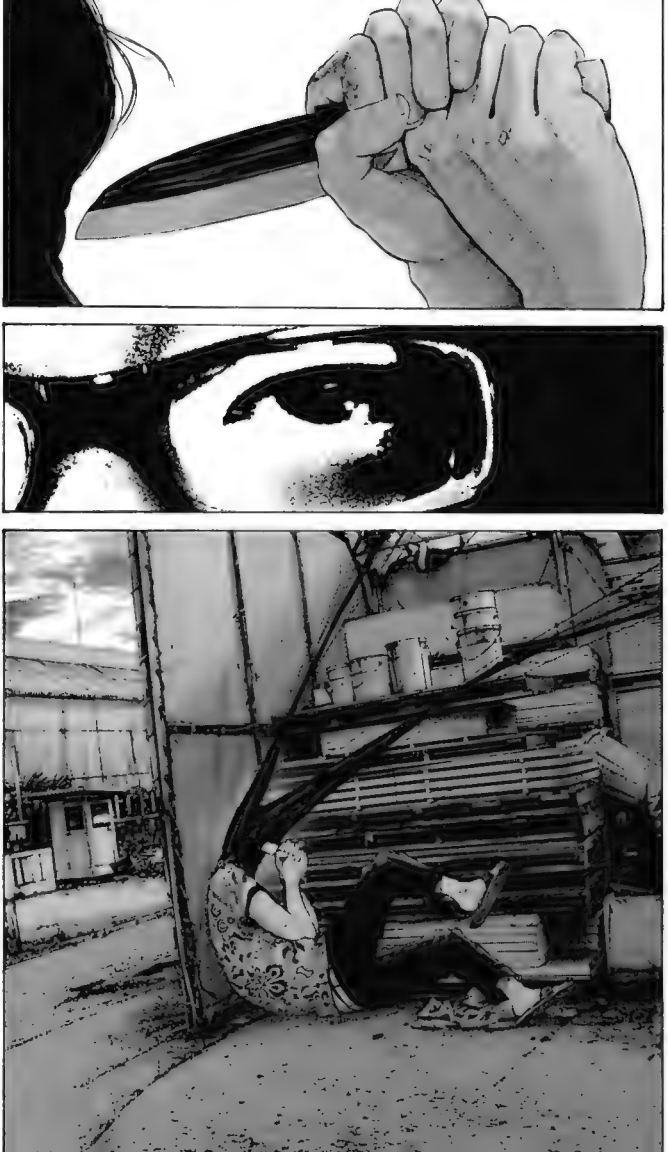
"In the end, it's obvious what I need to do."

"I have no doubts.

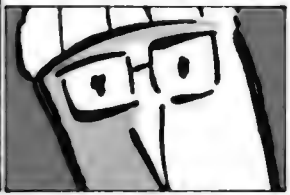
Let's go back to that boring, ordinary life.

Then die.

"You die."



Chapter 142



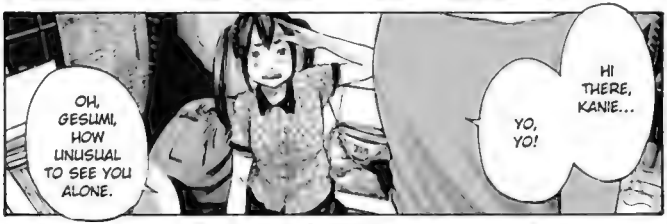
5:45
36%
The mysterious message left by the leader of the religious cult that attempted mass suicide
Shared from Niya niya video
maruded 22 uploads
1533
2 15
All comments (2)
What an idiot

Umaida

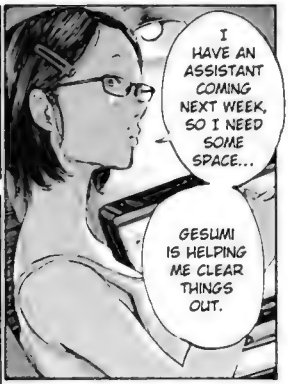
HOW STUPID.

MILKY WAY
SACHI NANJO

HEY, SACHI.
BOOBOO QUEEN
ARE YOU THROWING AWAY THIS PAINTING?

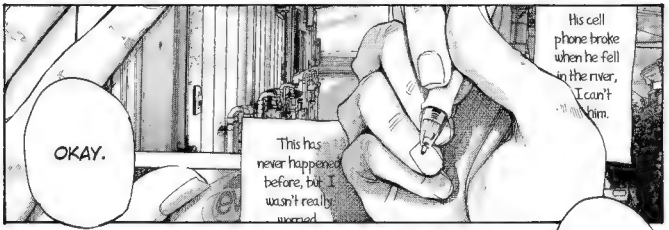

HI THERE, KANIE...
YO, YO!
OH, GESUMI, HOW UNUSUAL TO SEE YOU ALONE.

HOW BOLD OF YOU TO THROW OUT YOUR YEARBOOK.


I HAVE AN ASSISTANT COMING NEXT WEEK, SO I NEED SOME SPACE...
GESUMI IS HELPING ME CLEAR THINGS OUT.

NOT AT ALL.
I CAN'T BELIEVE I KEPT IT SO LONG.
SACHI NANJO
ERI HOSUI

OH?
ARE YOU THROWING THESE COMICS AWAY TOO?
YUP...
JUST THROW IT ALL AWAY.


His cell phone broke when he fell in the river, I can't ...him.
This has never happened before, but I wasn't really worried
OKAY.

I'M DONE WITH THIS WEEK'S PAGES...
...SO LET'S GO GORGE ON SOME CARBS.
YAY, LET'S GET FAT!

GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
TONK
I...
I LOOK UP TO STRONG, INDEPENDENT WOMEN LIKE YOU, SACHI!
SHE'S IN A MOOD TODAY, THIS ONE.
I'M NOT POUTING.
GAH!
I'M DESPAIRING OF MIMURA'S SHALLOWNESS IN MAKING PROMISES HE CAN'T KEEP.
SHE'S SULKING BECAUSE MIMURA ISN'T PAYING ATTENTION TO HER.
SHE TRIED TO MAKE MIMURA TEXT HER THREE TIMES A DAY.
WELL, THAT'S TOTALLY ANNOYING.

A LONG TIME AGO WHEN I WAS A KID...
...I MET THE SON OF THE GUY WHO MADE BENTO FOR THE FACTORY WHERE MY MOM WORKED.
SACHI...
...YOU KEEP YOUR WORD NO MATTER WHAT, RIGHT?
OKAY, THIS IS GETTING A LITTLE SAPPY NOW.
NO WAY...
THERE ARE PROMISES I CAN'T KEEP.
I PROMISED WHEN I FINISHED MY MANGA I'D SHOW IT TO HIM...
BUT I NEVER DID.
WE MET BY COINCIDENCE WHEN I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, BUT MY SELF-CONSCIOUSNESS AND LACK OF SELF-ESTEEM GOT IN THE WAY AND I COULDN'T TALK TO HIM...
WELL, I'M SURE HE DOESN'T REMEMBER ME ANYWAY.
WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT IF THAT BOY IS READING YOUR MANGA SOMEWHERE NOW, SACHI?
NOT REALLY.
BESIDES, I MOVED ON AGES AGO.

AND IF WE MET *NOW*, THE COINCIDENCE WOULD BE WASTED AGAIN IF I HALF-ASSED IT...
TURNING A COINCIDENCE INTO A MIRACLE ALL COMES DOWN TO HOW YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE...
AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I TELL MYSELF, AND THIS IS THE RESULT.

I MISS THAT FACTORY. WHEN I WAS IN MY TEENS...
...I THOUGHT I WAS ALL MYSTERIOUS AND USED TO LOOK UP AT THE NIGHT SKY THERE.
THAT STARRY SKY WAS THE IDEA BEHIND *MILKY WAY*.

THAT'S AMAZING! WHAT A COINCI-DENCE...
IT'S TANABATA TODAY! WILL YOU HAVE A MIRACULOUS REUNION WITH THAT BOY?
I DON'T WANT ANYTHING SPARKLY LIKE THAT.

REALLY? REALLY?
EVEN IF YOU END UP AN OLD MAID, I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU.
DON'T WORRY, GESUMI.
I'M GOING TO BECOME SUCCESSFUL AND POWERFUL!

AHEM, NO THANKS. I DON'T NEED TO FEED YOUR SMUGNESS.
IF YOUR HUSBAND THROWS YOU OUT, I'LL LOOK AFTER YOU TOO, KUMI.

AHA HA HA...
I'M WINNING!
GESUMI, YOU'RE HEAVY.
AGAINST WHAT?

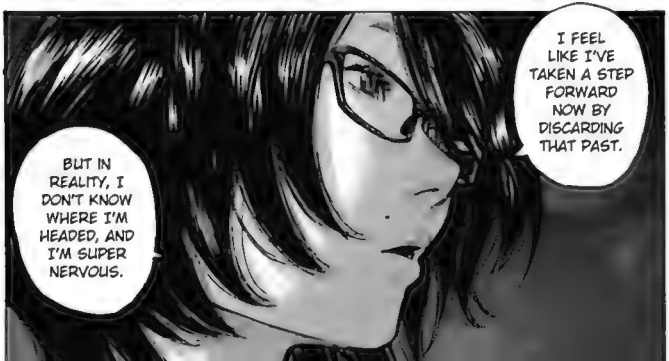
ALL RIGHT...
SO HAVE IT OUT WITH MAKURA.
OKAY.
ALL RIGHT...
OFF I GO THEN.
I'M GOING TO DRAG HIS INNARDS OUT AND DRAPE THEM AROUND HIS NECK.
THEY KIND OF BELONG TOGETHER.
I'M SURE IT WILL BE FINE.
I HOPE THEY GET BACK TOGETHER.
SACHI...
...SHALL WE GO HOME AND START ON THE NEXT CHAPTER?
OKAY, KANIE...

HMM?
DON'T PUSH SO HARD.
YOU TAKE ON TOO MUCH.
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A KID NEXT YEAR. YOU SHOULD LEARN TO BALANCE THINGS...
I KEEP THINKING YOU'RE GOING TO LOSE IT. IT'S SCARY JUST WATCHING YOU.
THAT'S JUST MY PERSONALITY.
IT NEVER ENDS WELL WHEN I RELY ON SOMEONE ELSE.
IT'S YOUR OWN BUSINESS IF YOU KILL OVER...
...BUT DON'T FORGET THAT I GET SUCKED INTO YOUR DRAMA OUT OF PURE KINDNESS, AND THAT'S A BIG PAIN IN MY ASS.
SORRY.
I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND.

I WONDER IF PUNPUN WOULD APPRECIATE THAT SENTIMENT?
WELL, WHATEVER. HE'LL BE TROUBLED FOREVER..
...SO I THINK, NEXT TIME, I'LL BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT HIS ANGUISH.
AND THEN THERE'S THE ISSUE WITH PUNPUN.
I JUST HAVE TO WAIT FOR HIM TO COME HOME.
THIS ISN'T ABOUT LOVING HIM, BUT IT'S ALL MY FAULT.
WE DON'T HAVE ANY HOPE FOR ORDINARY HAPPINESS...
...AND I THINK IT SUITS US.
YOU GUYS ARE TWISTED.
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT.

ABOUT THAT PAINTING...
I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY SEEN THE MILKY WAY.
IN THE SUBURBS, THE BEST YOU CAN HOPE FOR IS A THIRD MAGNITUDE STAR.
EVERYTHING IN THAT PAINTING IS A GREAT BIG LIE.

WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, I'D SWEAR I COULD SEE THINGS...
...EVEN WHEN I COULDN'T, BECAUSE I BELIEVED THAT SOMETIMES MY ONLY HOPE WAS FOR IT TO BE OUT THERE.


I FEEL LIKE I'VE TAKEN A STEP FORWARD NOW BY DISCARDING THAT PAST.
BUT IN REALITY, I DON'T KNOW WHERE I'M HEADED, AND I'M SUPER NERVOUS.

I WONDER WHAT KIND OF FUTURE...
...I USED TO DREAM ABOUT, LOOKING AT THE NIGHT SKY?

KANIE.
HMM?
DO YOU MIND WALKING WITH ME FOR A WHILE LONGER?
MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL
MANGA
YOUNG MONTHLY

HA HA...
HEY, SHIMIZU.
YOU LOOK BETTER THAN ME.

OKAY, LET'S GO HOME.
WE CAN THINK ABOUT TOMORROW WHEN IT GETS HERE.

RIGHT?

WHO ARE YOU?

Chapter 143

I'M ME.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHO AM I?

I GUESS WE DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THE DETAILS RIGHT NOW.
WELL...

I...
...AM YOUR FRIEND.

I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE WE GRADUATED. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT HE'S DOING.
ARE YOU REALLY...
...CHECKING WITH EVERYONE FROM HIGH SCHOOL?
WHAT? ONOTT??

GULP.
YO, GESUMI...
SORRY, I'VE BEEN KIND OF BUSY LATELY.
WELL...
I'VE BEEN HAVING NIGHTLY BATTLES WITH A TURTLE DRESSED AS A NINJA HIDING IN THE SEWERS...

HEY, WHY ARE YOU CRYING?!
WE'VE GOT A GREAT RELATIONSHIP. DON'T MAKE ME SAY ANYTHING EMBARRASSING.
I'M A KYUSHU MAN...
DON'T QUIBBLE, AND JUST TRUST ME.
WHAT?! DON'T COME OVER?
WHAT ...?
YOU'RE TOO WITTY. I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.
YEAH, SORRY ...
I WAS REALLY BORN AND RAISED IN KANAGAWA.
I'M GOING TO COME OVER THERE RIGHT NOW.

WOW.
THAT'S AMAZING.

I'VE MADE UP MY MIND...
I'M COMING TO GET YOU RIGHT NOW.

BECAUSE ...
...I...

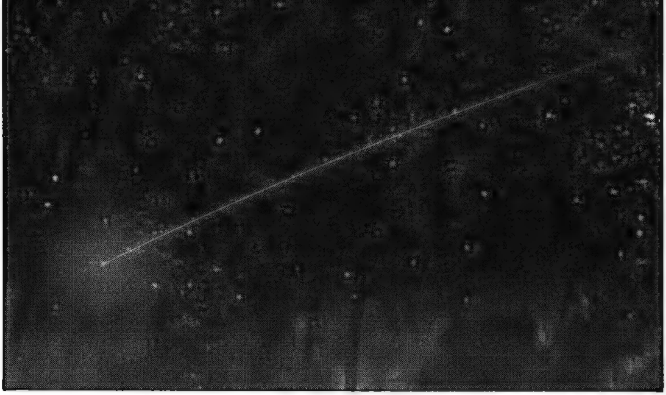
CLEARANCE

CELL PHONE &
LAPTOP AREA

The mysterious message left by the leader
of the religious cult that attempted mass suicide
Shared from Niya niya video.
meruded
82 uploads
1682
All comments (8)
3
24
Muto muto big brother 3 mins
This is the last night of earth
25 minutes ago
5.26 ~ "July 7, the instant Milky Way and
hope pass each other." Is that the meteor

Punpun thought...

...how easy it would be if he could just burn out in a second and disappear.



...the stars shot by.

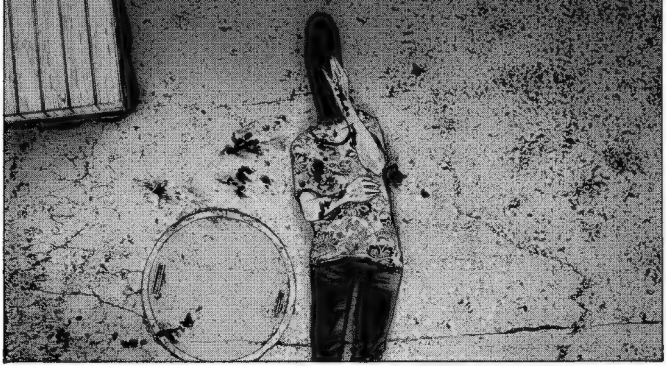
...after another...

One...

He was just thoroughly exhausted.

He wasn't sad.

He wasn't happy.



That's what Punpun was thinking.

...Punpun didn't have to worry about tomorrow and could finally, deeply sleep...

By closing his remaining eye...

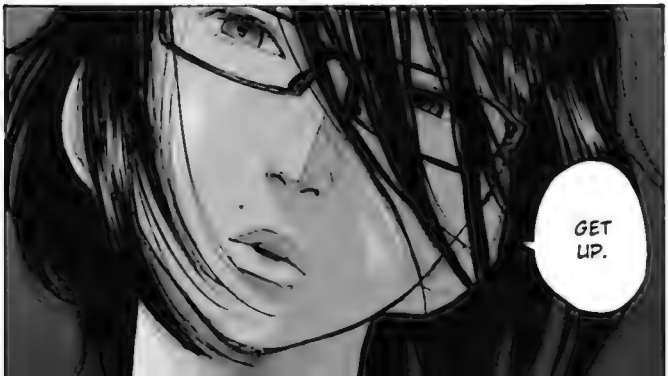
There is no God, no Aiko...

Goodnight...

PUNPUN.
KISO

PERHAPS IT'S SELFISHNESS ON MY PART.

I COULD NEVER ALLOW THAT.



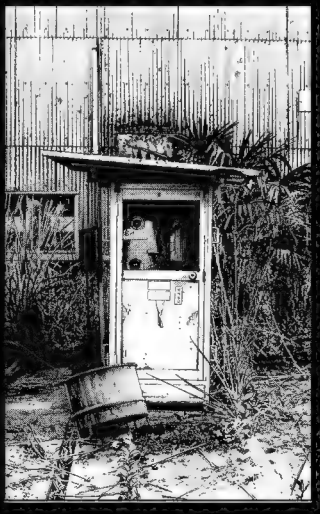
I WILL NEVER ALLOW YOU TO RUN AWAY FROM ME AGAIN.

I THINK AS LONG AS SOMEONE IS HURTING, I MIGHT BE STRONGER.

SO...

I GOT YOU.

...YOU'RE ALL MINE NOW.



Chapter 144

OH.

YO, YO...
DON'T TRY TO MOVE. JUST STAY RIGHT THERE.

THEY OPERATED...
...ON YOUR LEFT EYE.
YOU'VE BEEN ASLEEP ABOUT A DAY AND A HALF...
MIMURA AND MIZUZU JUST LEFT.

I DON'T MIND...
...BUT TRY NOT TO MAKE EVERYONE ELSE WORRY SO MUCH.

I NEED TO GO HOME AND GET BACK TO WORK.

AHHH?
THIS?

I HAD TOO MUCH TIME ON MY HANDS, SO I STARTED COMING UP WITH IDEAS FOR MY NEXT MANGA.
DO YOU WANT TO SEE?

THIS IS THE MAIN CHARACTER
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
TOO BAD?

I'M KIDDING. IF I DID SOMETHING LIKE THIS, MY EDITOR WOULD BE APPALLED...
THAT'S MIMURA'S DOODLE.

I'M GOING TO CREATE MANGA THAT SELLS, EVEN IF IT'S LOWBROW ESCAPISM FROM THE HELL OF CONSCIOUS-NESS.
NOW THAT I'VE STARTED THIS, I REALLY CAN'T STOP.
BUT I DO NEED TO START THINKING ABOUT MY NEXT STORY.
I'LL LEAVE NOW.
SORRY, THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW.
AH, I'...

I'M...
...NOT GOING TO ASK WHERE YOU WERE OR WHAT YOU WERE DOING.

WHEN YOU WANT TO TALK...
...I'M PREPARED TO LISTEN TO ALL OF IT.

IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE TELLING PEOPLE ABOUT IT...
...I'LL TELL THEM FOR YOU.

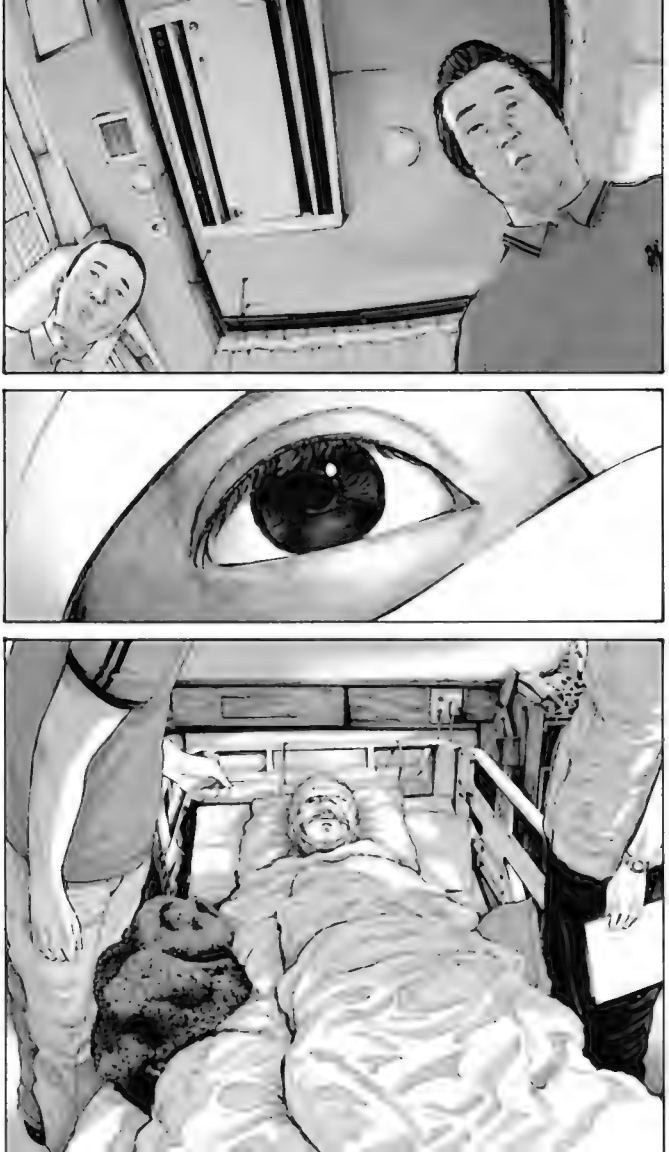
I'LL BE WAITING...
...UNTIL THEN.

I'LL...
...VISIT AGAIN TOMORROW.

EXCUSE ME.
ARE YOU A FRIEND OF MR. ONODERA'S?

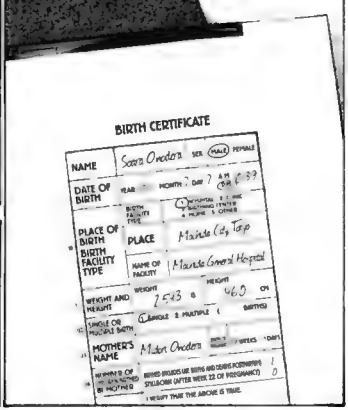
WITNESSES PLACED MR. ONODERA AT THE SCENE OF A MURDER.
CAN WE TALK TO YOU A MINUTE?

OF COURSE.



WE'LL KEEP THIS SIMPLE SINCE YOU'RE JUST OUT OF SURGERY.
TO START WITH...
...CAN YOU TELL US YOUR NAME?
MY NAME IS...

BOY!
HOSPITAL


BIRTH CERTIFICATE
NAME
Sara Anders
SEX (MALE) FEMALE
DATE OF BIRTH
PLACE OF BIRTH
Marble City Hosp
BIRTH FACILITY TYPE
PLACE
NAME OF FACILITY
Marble General Hospital
WEIGHT AND HEIGHT
7 LB 3 OZ
46.0 CM
SINGLE OR MULTIPLE BIRTH
MOTHER'S NAME
Mika Anders

USH TO
CCESS NICU
PUSH TO
ACCESS GCU
To enter Please
Push intercphone
button
LDR 1-LDR 8
NICU
新生兒重症監護室
Growing Care Unit
(GCU)
未熟児室(GCU)

WHAT IS THIS...?
THIS IS JUST...

SOARA ONODERA
BIRTH DATE 7/11/2011
TIME OF BIRTH 22:39
WEIGHT 2543 g
DOCTOR SAKURA ROOM 202

THIS IS JUST HOPE.

Yo.

GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

Part Thirteen

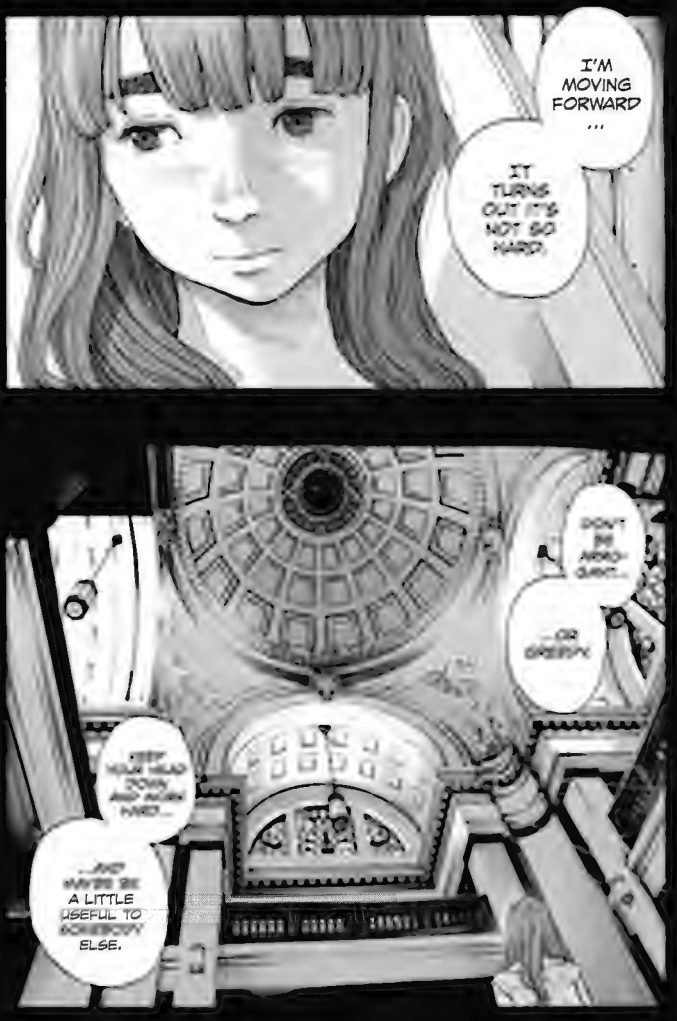
INIO ASANO

Chapter 145

IT'S GOING TO BE...
...TANABATA SOON.
I DIDN'T LAST YEAR, BUT I WONDER...
IF I'LL FINALLY GET TO SEE THE MILKY WAY THIS YEAR.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE...
...AKO.
I HAVE LOTS TO TELL YOU AGAIN THIS YEAR.

MY PROBATION IS OVER, AND LAST MONTH...
...I STARTED WORKING FOR A REAL ESTATE COMPANY THAT MR. SHISHIDO REFERRED ME TO.
IT'S TOTALLY BASIC...
...BUT I'M PLANNING TO WORK HARD.
2,000
MY FRIEND THE MANGA AUTHOR IS HAPPY...
...THAT THE NEW SERIES I'VE BEEN HELPING WITH IS GOING TO BE A BOOK.
I HEAR MIMURA IS GETTING MARRIED NEXT YEAR.
IT'S GOING WELL, FOR ME AND EVERYBODY ELSE.


I'M MOVING FORWARD ...
IT TURNS OUT IT'S NOT SO HARD.
DON'T BE AFRAID.
...OR GREEDY.
KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN AND WORK HARD...
...AND MAYBE BE A LITTLE USEFUL TO SOMEBODY ELSE.

WHEN THE PERSON IN FRONT OF ME IS SMILING ...
...I FEEL VERY CONTENT.
I HAVE TOMORROW OFF, SO MAYBE I'LL GO SOME-WHERE.
IF I HAVE A PROBLEM, IT'S THAT MY FRIEND'S DAUGHTER ...
...HAS BECOME ATTACHED TO ME AND IS CONVINCED I'M HER FATHER.

OF COURSE I THINK IT'S BEST IF SHE HAS A FATHER IN HER LIFE...
...BUT I'M PRETTY SURE IT'S NOT ME.
I WANT TO BE ALONE.
THAT'S MY ONLY SELF-INDULGENCE.

IF I DON'T WORRY ABOUT THINGS AND STAY FREE...
...I NATURALLY MOVE FORWARD WHEN THE WIND BLOWS.
IT'S VERY EASY...
...ALTHOUGH IT'S LIKE LIVING AS A GHOST.
I DON'T REALLY CARE.
WHERE AM I HEADED?
...AND FADE FROM PEOPLE'S MEMORIES, I THINK THAT WOULD BE GOOD.
BUT ONE DAY, IF I DISAPPEAR ANONY-MOUSLY, LIKE A BUBBLE...

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I NEED TO LOOK BACK...
...ON THE MONTHS I SPENT WITH YOU, OR ON MY CHILD-HOOD...
...AND WHEN I TRY TO PUT THOSE EMOTIONS INTO WORDS, IT COMES OUT CHOPPY AND VAGUE...
...AND MAKES ME SO ASHAMED.
IT FEELS LIKE I'M EXPOSING MYSELF TO RIDICULE, AND I DON'T LIKE IT...

...BUT THIS IS THE ONLY ROLE THAT'S BEEN GIVEN TO ME...
...SO I PLAN TO SEE IT THROUGH TO THE END.
AIKO...
...YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK?
THAT MILKY WAY WE SAW WHEN WE WERE KIDS—
DID WE REALLY SEE IT?
I THINK MAYBE IT WAS JUST A FALSE MEMORY...
...WE GLORIFIED.

YOUR VOICE IS A BIT DISTANT THESE DAYS.
AKO...
WAS THAT YOUR VOICE?
UNCLE HOUSE
WAS THAT REALLY YOUR FACE?

"IF YOU BETRAY ME AGAIN... NEXT TIME I'LL KILL YOU."

AND...
I ALREADY KNOW.
YOU CAN'T KILL ME ANYMORE.

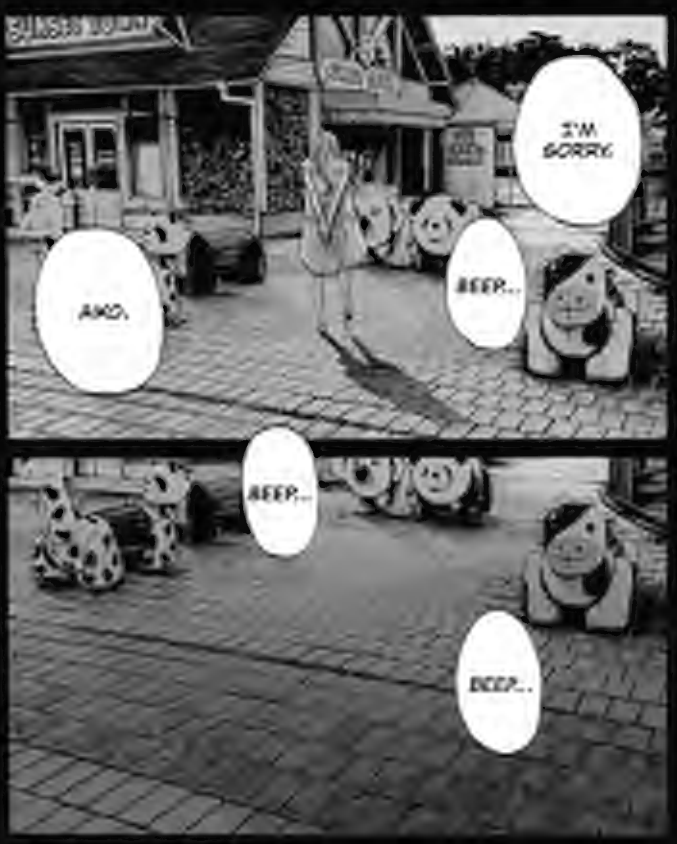
"YOU DON'T LIE, RIGHT, PUNPUN?"

I hope that you never forget me.
I hope my irritable bowel syndrome is cured. I hope my mom's temper cured.
AND LIVE WITHOUT ANY WORRY ABOUT MONEY. I HOPE MY PARENTS ARE HEALTHY FOR A LONG TIME. RENTA
I HOPE I CAN HAVE A CHANGE OF HEART AND THE MEMORIES
AIKO...

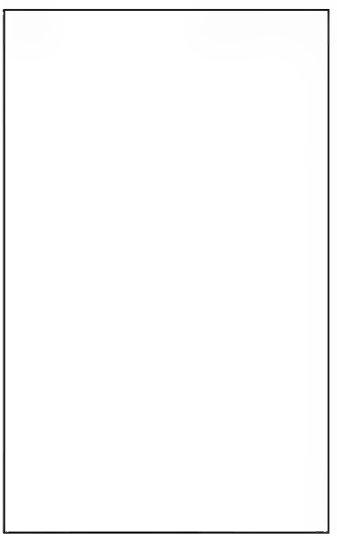
I'M SORRY.
I AM A LIAR.

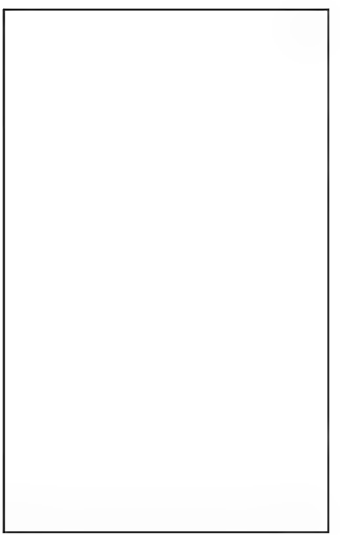
I'M SURE...
...I WON'T SEE THE MILKY WAY THIS YEAR OR NEXT...
...AND IT WILL ALSO BE CLOUDY ON TANABATA, FOREVER...

SUNSET TOWN
...BUT THE WORLD WON'T CHANGE AND HUMANITY ISN'T DONE FOR.
I NEED TO MOVE FORWARD.
BEEP...

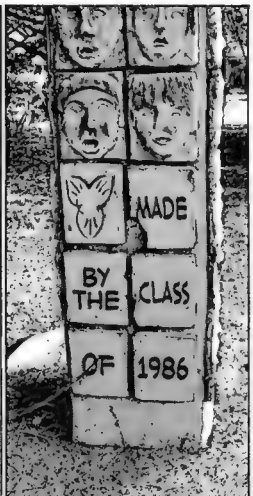

I'M SORRY.
BEEP..
AND.
BEEP..
BEEP..
GOOD-BYE.

BEEP...
B...





Chapter 146



I'LL NEVER FORGET THE TIME I'VE SPENT WITH ALL OF YOU.
THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

MR. HARUMI...
...DO YOU HAVE THE SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MONTH'S PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES?

HOW WAS THE GOING-AWAY PARTY IN YOUR CLASS?
OH, HERE IT IS.
OH...
I GAVE IT TO YOU LAST WEEK, EMAIL AND PRINT-OUT.
MR. HARUMI GETS EMOTIONAL.
...BUT IT'S A LITTLE SAD.
IT WENT WELL...
...NOT CARE AT ALL, MR. HARUMI?
DON'T YOU ACTUALLY...
AS HEAD TEACHER, I CAN'T APPROVE THAT.
"THE IMPORTANCE OF FRIENDS."
YOUR SUBJECT FOR THE WRITING CLASS...

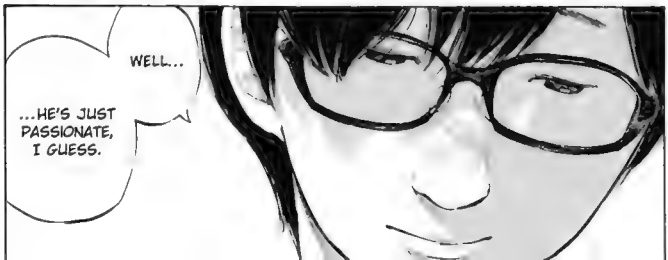
IMAGINE HOW A TOPIC LIKE THIS COULD HURT A CHILD WHO HAS TROUBLE BLENDING IN.
I'D LIKE YOU TO BE A BIT MORE SENSITIVE.
MR. TAKAHASHI...

...AND WE DEBATED THE SUBJECT OF THE PAPER AT THE LAST PARENTS' MEETING, AND IT HAS THEIR APPROVAL.
...THE KIDS IN MY CLASS ALL GET ALONG...

THEN...
...HOW ABOUT "MY DREAM FOR THE FUTURE"?
IF YOU GET COCKY BECAUSE YOU'RE POPULAR WITH THE PARENTS, YOU'LL REGRET IT.

THAT'S FAIR...
I'LL APPROVE IT.

MR. TAKAHASHI...
...REALLY, REALLY MESSES WITH YOU, DOESN'T HE?


WELL...
...HE'S JUST PASSIONATE, I GUESS.

I GET THAT HE'S BEEN SENSITIVE EVER SINCE HE HAD THAT PROBLEM ABOUT BULLYING WITH THE PARENTS' GROUP...
...BUT IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT FAIR, I'M NOT SURE "MY DREAM FOR THE FUTURE" REALLY CUTS IT EITHER.
MR. TAKAHASHI FOCUSES TOO MUCH ON ONE THING AND LETS EVERY-THING ELSE BLUR.

SO WHAT ARE YOU MAKING YOUR CLASS WRITE ABOUT?

BESIDES, EVERYONE HAS A DIFFERENT HOME LIFE...
...SO I QUESTION MAKING THEM THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE.
AND YOU... YOU'RE WAY TOO AGREEABLE.

"SOMETHING THAT RECENTLY GAVE ME COURAGE."
OH YEAH, I SEE.

IT DOESN'T MATTER.
IT'S AN EXERCISE IN LEARNING TO WRITE, SO THE SUBJECT DOESN'T MATTER.
HEY, YOU JUST SNIFFED AT ME.
NO, I'M IMPRESSED. VERY COOL.
OH...
...YOU PUT ALL MY TRASH TOGETHER. THANK YOU.
HEY, YOU'RE CHANGING THE SUBJECT.
THESE NOTEBOOKS FROM HIGH SCHOOL...
THEY TAKE ME BACK.
WHEN I WAS GOING THROUGH YOUR CLOSET, I FOUND ALL KINDS OF THINGS...
CAN I GET RID OF ALL THAT?

I DON'T NEED IT ANYMORE.
YOU'RE RIGHT...

...NEXT SUNDAY IS MY WEDDING DRESS FITTING.
DON'T FORGET ...
I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.
NO WAY I'D FORGET.

I KNOW YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE GETTING ALONG...
...WITH MY PARENTS AFTER THE LAST DINNER WE HAD...
...BUT THEY'RE PLAYING THE ROLE OF THE OLDER COUPLE WHO UNDERSTANDS YOUNG PEOPLE...
Gancheat

...SO DON'T THINK YOU CAN KEEP THEM ENTERTAINED BY JUST SMILING A LOT.

RESIDENT MANAGER

NO WAY...
YOU CAME, SHUNTARO!
SONO, SHUNTARO'S HERE.
OHH...
KOMATSU, YOU'VE OVERDONE IT ON THE HEIGHT THING, HAVEN'T YOU?
I PASSED SIX FEET IN HIGH SCHOOL.
HEY, HARUMIN...
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.

SEKI, THANKS FOR GETTING IN TOUCH.
IT WAS A TOTAL PAIN FINDING YOUR ADDRESS.
YO.
I WAS SURE YOU WOULDN'T COME.

MEN'S SCHOOL REUNION
OHH, SHIMIZU. HE COULDN'T COME TODAY. HE HAD SOMETHING ELSE GOING ON.
HE'S A NURSE NOW, AND I'M MAKING BENTO WITH MY DAD.
WAIT, WHERE'S THAT GUY?
YOU KNOW, THE ONE WHO WAS ALWAYS WITH YOU.

AH.
SO THAT LEAVES...

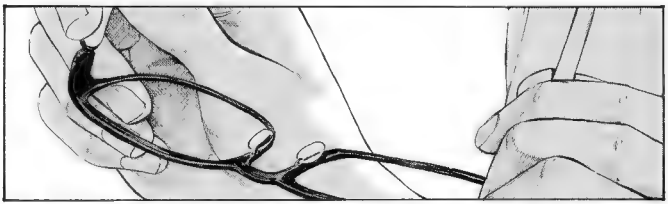
IT REALLY DOES TAKE ME BACK...
NO ONE'S CHANGED AT ALL.

YOU'RE AS FIERCE AS EVER, SEKI.
THAT GOES FOR YOU TOO, RIGHT, MR. HARUMI?
NO MATTER HOW FULFILLING YOUR LIFE IS, AREN'T YOU ALL HERE TO COMPARE YOURSELVES TO EACH OTHER?
THE ONES WHO COME TO GATHERINGS LIKE THIS ARE THE ONES WHO CAN PULL IT OFF.
THEY'RE JUST PRETENDING TO BE THE SAME, DON'T YOU THINK?

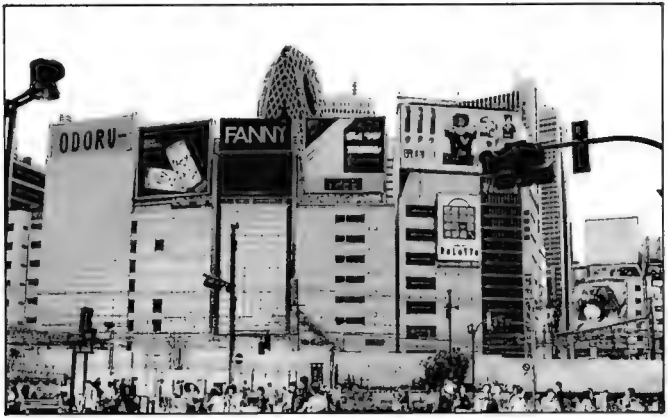
YOU'RE A REALLY GOOD-LOOKING COUPLE.
NOT REALLY.
YOUR FIANCÉ SEEMS VERY SWEET.
THAT'S ALL HE'S GOT GOING FOR HIM.

SHUNTARO.

WHY?
I DON'T MIND AT ALL.
IF YOU'RE BORED...
SORRY, I NEED SOME TIME TO THINK.
...YOU CAN WAIT OUTSIDE.



KINKI NIHON TOURIST


ODORU-
FANNY

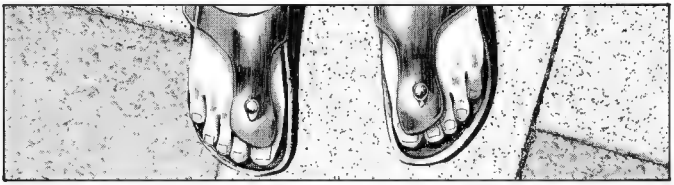
I'M SURE THIS IS "NORMAL."
BILLBOARD AVAILABLE
FOR INFORMATION CALL
ABC-MART
SALE
boost your run
10 50% Off Price!
ABC-MART

MY LIFE IS SO EASY I'M KIND OF LOSING MY MIND.

TANABATA THIS YEAR IS SUNNY IN THE MIDST OF THE RAINY SEASON.
I HAD THE URGE TO KILL SOMEONE, SO I WAS WANDERING AROUND IN A TOWN FULL OF SHOPPERS...

...AND THEN I SAW HIM AGAIN.

HE WAS AN ADULT NOW...
...BUT AS SOON AS OUR EYES MET, I KNEW IT WAS HIM.



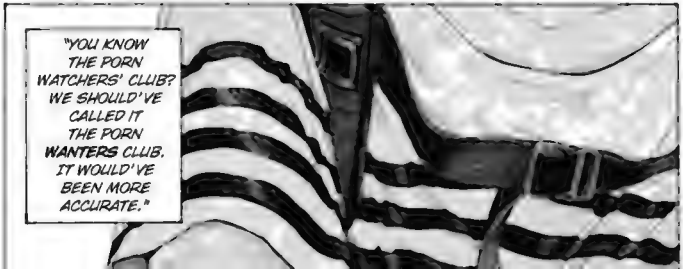
IT WAS THE SAME FOR HIM TOO.

AN AWKWARD, DISJOINTED CONVERSATION FOLLOWED.
ISETAN

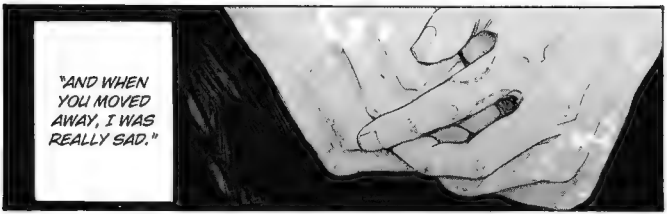
IT'S NO WONDER. I'M NOT THE PERSON HE KNEW BACK THEN, AND I'M SURE HE FELT THE SAME...

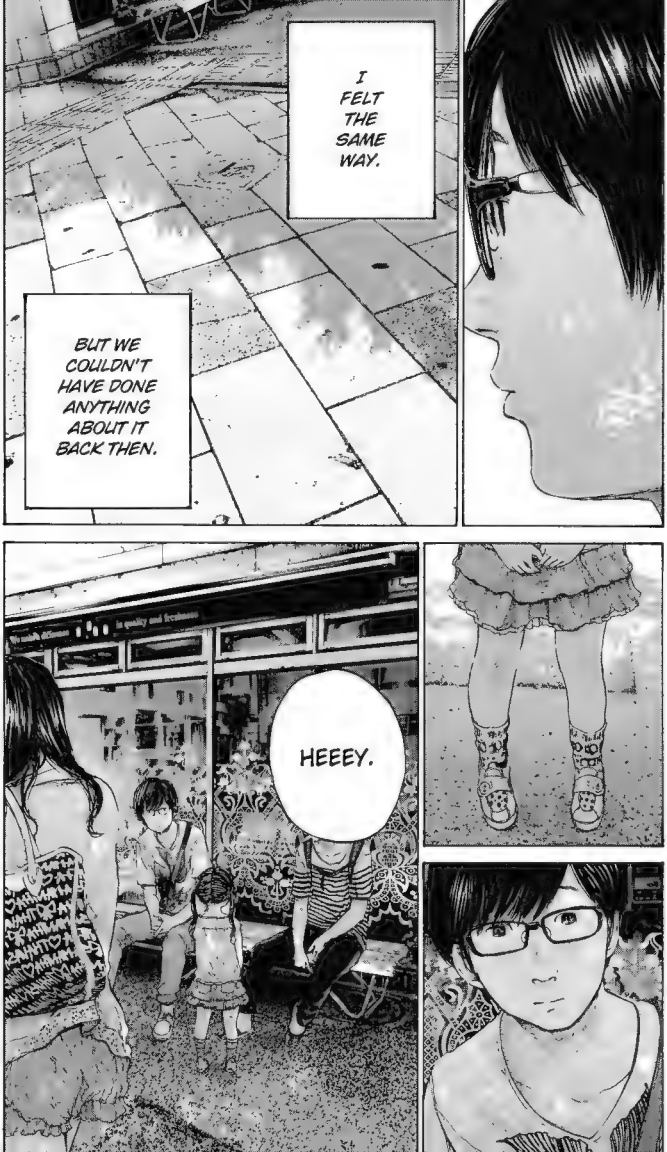
...AND WHEN THE CONVERSATION TURNED TO THE WEATHER...
...WE BOTH ACKNOWLEDGED IT WAS TIME TO LEAVE.

AFTER A BRIEF SILENCE...
...HE SAID, "I HAVE SOMETHING I'VE BEEN WANTING TO TELL YOU FOR A LONG TIME.


"YOU KNOW THE PORN WATCHERS' CLUB? WE SHOULD'VE CALLED IT THE PORN **WANTERS** CLUB. IT WOULD'VE BEEN MORE ACCURATE."

AS I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, "THAT'S WHAT YOU WORRIED ABOUT ALL THESE YEARS?" HE CONTINUED...

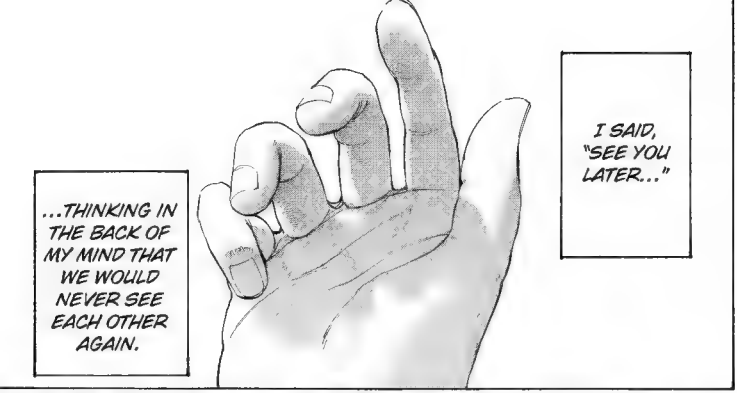

"AND WHEN YOU MOVED AWAY, I WAS REALLY SAD."


I FELT THE SAME WAY.
BUT WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE ANYTHING ABOUT IT BACK THEN.
HEEEY.

DON'T GO WANDERING OFF, IDIOT.
COME ON, WE'RE GOING.
EVERYBODY WAS LOOKING FOR YOU.
HUH?
FRIEND FROM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?
I KNOW. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GOT DUMPED IN THE FIFTH GRADE BY A GIRL WHO WENT OUT WITH YOU FOR HALF A DAY, RIGHT?
UH...

I DIDN'T FEEL IT NECESSARY TO ASK HIM ABOUT THE SCAR ON HIS LEFT EYE EITHER.
HIS EXPRESSION DENIED IT, AND I DIDN'T PURSUE IT ANY FURTHER.
AS WE PARTED, I SAID, "YOU GOT MARRIED..."

BECAUSE HE AND I...
RAINBOW COSMETICS


I SAID, "SEE YOU LATER..."
...THINKING IN THE BACK OF MY MIND THAT WE WOULD NEVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.

I COULDN'T REMEMBER HIS NAME.

YOU KNOW, SHUNTARO ...
...YOU'VE GOT THESE PAUSES WHEN YOU TALK.
WHAT ARE YOU REALLY THINKING?

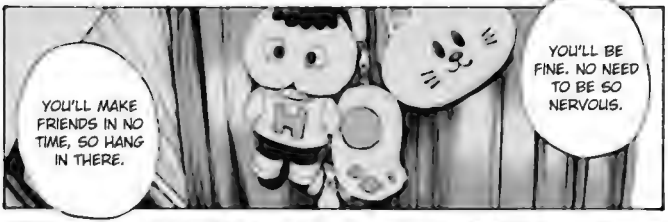
I...
...YOU'RE PREPARED TO ACCEPT WHO I REALLY AM?

I KNOW...
...THERE ARE THINGS I'M BETTER OFF NOT ASKING.
BUT I CAN'T GET OVER..
...MR. TAKAHASHI AND HIS HIGH-HANDEDNESS.

HUH ?!
WHAT?
ARE YOU STILL GOING ON ABOUT THAT?

OF COURSE HE PISSES ME OFF!
I HATE THAT PIECE OF SHIT.
WELL, GOOD!
I FELT LIKE I WAS BEING MADE INTO THE BAD GUY THERE.

AHUH?
WHAT'S WRONG?


YOU'LL BE FINE. NO NEED TO BE SO NERVOUS.
YOU'LL MAKE FRIENDS IN NO TIME, SO HANG IN THERE.

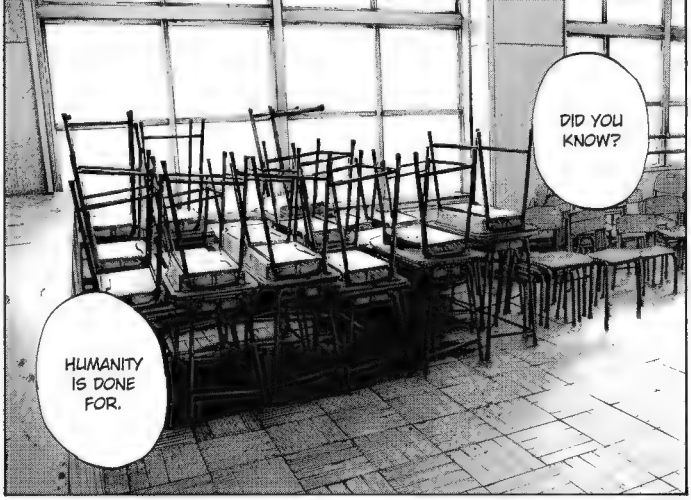
THE TEACHER AT MY OLD SCHOOL...
...TOLD ME THE SAME THING.

YOU'RE RIGHT...
I DON'T KNOW YOU VERY WELL YET, AND HONESTLY I'M NOT THAT INTERESTED.
BUT I DO MEAN IT WHEN I TELL YOU TO HANG IN THERE.
I DON'T NEED YOUR PLATITUDES.
YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ME.
I'LL DO WHATEVER I CAN FOR YOU.
SO I WANT YOU TO EXPECT MORE FROM GROWN-UPS.

MY NAME IS MOE SASAZUKA.
I'M FROM EDOGAWA WARD.
OKAY.
SINCE WE HAVE A TRANSFER STUDENT, LET'S...

WHAT'S SEX?

WHAT'S NORMAL?


DID YOU KNOW?
HUMANITY IS DONE FOR.

GOODNIGHT PUNPUN .NIO ASANO
Part Th rteen

BACKGROUND ASSISTANTS Satsuki Sato
Hiro Kashiwaba
Ran Atsumori
Yuki Toribuchi

COOPERATION Kumatsuto
Hisashi Saito
Yasumasa Iwama
Shunji Fujikawa
Yu Uehara
Kihachiro Kume
Haruka Oikawa
Ayako Maru

INIO ASANO, a bona fide earthling, was born in Ibaraki, Japan, in 1980. In 2001, his short story "Uchu kara Konnichiwa" (Hello from Outer Space) won the first Sunday GX Rookie Prize. Later, GX published his series *Subarashi Sekai*, available in English from VIZ Media as *What a Wonderful World!* His other works include *Hikari no Machi* (City of Light), *Nijigahara Holograph* and *Umibe no Onna no Ko* (A Girl on the Shore), as well as *solanin*, also available from VIZ Media.

GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

Volume 7

VIZ Signature Edition

Story and Art by INIO ASANO

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by Inio ASANO
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